

the chronicle

Work under way at new £4.8m school

– see page 3



School's book day helps to support Harriers

– see page 5



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TURN-AROUND SCHOOL'S JOY

AKIDDERMINSTER primary school branded the worst mainstream school in England is rising back up the league table.

St Mary's C of E was placed in special measures in May 2009 after an Ofsted report rated its overall achievement at just seven per cent.

The Stoney Laney school has since received five monitoring visits from Worcestershire County Council and Ofsted which have

continually observed and challenged its progress.

When the new headteacher, Hilary Pritchard, was appointed in September 2009 she said: "It's not going to be a quick fix but we are going to make a difference."

Following the school's latest Ofsted inspection, last month, the report said: "St Mary's is a good school where pupils enjoy their learning and make good progress."

Improvements were needed to enhance the curriculum, improve standards by the end of year six, tackle underachievement and improve attendance through

By Sarah Hazelwood
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parental engagement. Mrs Pritchard, the former head of Blakedown Primary School, said: "We have achieved progress across all areas."

"It hasn't been an easy pill for any of us to swallow and we desperately wanted to improve to change this awful label that had been attached to our school."

"There's a real buzz around here now, we have worked long and hard to ensure that the whole school saw an improvement. The team effort

shown amongst the staff, governors and teachers alongside the support of the local authority and community has given us the faith to make the progress we have since 2009."

Teaching levels throughout the school are described as 'good' and key stage two, which was identified as inadequate nearly two years ago, saw the senior leadership team deliver 'outstanding' lessons.

After transforming the curriculum, parents are now more involved with their children's learning through various activities and family engaging opportunities. Standards at the end of key stage

two showed a 43 per cent improvement by July 2010.

The inspector noted that children often make good or outstanding progress from low starting points.

While challenges remain around attendance, the school realised for future development it was important to ensure the progress made was sustainable and new progressions were embedded across the school.

Mrs Pritchard added: "We now work to ensure that each child is monitored closely so that they are learning and progressing in the most effective manner."

"Areas such as attendance are still a challenge but we are working hard with all of the parents to make sure that the children are getting the best out of the school and that any problems they may have here or at home are addressed immediately."

"Although challenges do remain it is now a lovely learning environment for both the staff and the pupils."

The school's motto is Dream, Believe and Achieve, something the headteacher has ensured all of the staff have embraced as they embark upon "their new start as a better school".

Support

She said: "When I first started here I wanted to help make a difference."

"You do have that doubt that the work you do might not be good enough during times like this, but the team have supported me in all of my decisions and without them I couldn't have helped make these changes happen."

"I am delighted that so much progress has been achieved in a relatively short time."

"This is a school with a real heart, where the teachers work tirelessly to go that extra mile for the children."

"As a school we have moved on."



Ellie Dusconi, aged six, from Stourport meets a sugar glider during an Animal Mania session at Stourport Library. Picture: Jon Lucas

It's fur enough for young Ellie

THIS Stourport youngster looks a bit startled about the furry creature sitting on her head, but fortunately for her it jumped away a second later – and onto our photographer.

This sugar glider can move pretty quickly through the air and certainly takes a shine to humans, as Chronicle photographer Jon Lucas found out when he visited Stourport Library.

The cute creature, a native to Australia, was one of a variety of exotic animals which children got to touch at a recent half term event. Snakes,

Furry fun – page 6

chinchillas, lizards and giant rabbits were also brought in as part of a visit Animal Mania, a Worcester-based mobile zoo.

The snake would have put many off, but for Jon and six-year-old Ellie Dusconi the sugar glider was more than enough to contend with.

"There were two sugar gliders and they were quite lively, jumping from person to person," Jon said. "One of them took a shine to me and jumped from Ellie onto my shoulder just after I took the shot. They were cute though and Ellie seemed to like them, she was actually quite relaxed."

Waste plans appeal

AN MP wants the Government to overturn a decision to back plans for a controversial £120 million incinerator in Hartlebury.

Worcestershire County Council's planning committee unanimously approved the waste-burning EnviRecover plant on Hartlebury Trading Estate last week.

But Communities Secretary Eric Pickles must back the development before it can be built.

Mid-Worcestershire MP Peter Luff, has called on him order a public inquiry.

The Tory MP has supported Worcestershire Residents against Landfill and Incineration (WALL) for the past year.

"This is a very upsetting outcome, not least for the residents of Hartlebury and the surrounding area," he said. "I will continue to fight the proposal."

Mercia Waste said the development would create up to 30 jobs and 200 people would be employed during construction.



Nun-stop express pulls in cash

The group of "nuns" pulls the train along the tracks at the Severn Valley Railway to raise money for Red Nose Day

Store joins in with the fun

A STORE is bringing the X-Factor to Kidderminster for its Red Nose Day celebrations.

TK Maxx, in Weavers Wharf, has invited 2009's local X-Factor hopefuls Synergy and Kidderminster singer Laura Broad, who appeared on Five's Don't Stop Believing, to perform at the fun day.

Severn Side School of Dancing will also be performing.

THESE "nuns" were relying on brute strength rather than the power of prayer when they clubbed together to pull a train.

Onlookers were shocked to see them dragging the 72-ton diesel locomotive along the Severn Valley Railway tracks at Kidderminster on Sunday.

But all was not as it seemed, as the nuns were actually stationery shop employees disguised in habits for a charity event. The 40 men and women, employees of Ryman Stationery,

aimed to raise £10,000 in sponsorship for Comic Relief with the Nuns on the Pull challenge.

Ryman spokeswoman Tina Fotherby said: "We've got a very enthusiastic team, we've had no drop-outs and it's been a great day. We've certainly generated a lot of smiles."

"The team actually had to do the train pull twice because we arrived at the station early but had told people we were doing it later. It was tough but very good fun."

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Hunt is on for hero of highway

A KIDDERMINSTER tyres and servicing centre is searching for highway heroes.

Chris Kisby, of HiQ Kidderminster, has helped to create the HiQ Highway Hero campaign on social networking site Facebook.

It aims to reward selfless motorists who have performed heroic rescues or shown remarkable acts of compassion.

Accident

The Highway Hero Like page aims to raise awareness of those who have given roadside assistance.

Selfless deeds could include changing a flat tyre, helping with a broken down vehicle or being first to help at the scene of an accident.

Spot prizes will be awarded throughout the campaign and the person named HiQ's Highway Hero will receive a prize worth £1,000.

Mr Kisby said: "We are certain there are hundreds of people worthy of being named a highway hero, and we hope to see nominations of all kinds posted on our Facebook page."

Details at www.facebook.com/HiQFastFit

Fruity farm scheme

WYRE FOREST residents who may have dreamed of having an orchard can find out how – for free. Uncles Farm in Bewdley is laying on free information courses to run on Friday, March 18 and the following day. They are led by county council orchard expert Wade Muggleton. More details from Emma Bogaard on 01299 488083 or by email at emma@wyrecit.org.uk

New Asda would return derelict factory into use

A NEW ASDA supermarket creating 400 jobs is planned for Kidderminster, bringing a derelict carpet factory back into use.

The supermarket is part of a redevelopment of industrial land on the Churchfields site off St Mary's Ringway, featuring a store, petrol station, offices and homes.

A new link road from Churchfields to the ringway roundabout is also proposed, to prevent the area being clogged by traffic.

Celebration grants open

THE seventh round of county grants to voluntary organisations is now open. A total of £10,000 is available with a £1,000 maximum.

Depot attack by thieves

VANDALS attacked a rangers vehicle after breaking into Wyre Forest District Council's Green Street depot in Kidderminster. They also broke into a store on February 26-27.

The store was targeted again on March 3 when power tools were stolen and a vehicle damaged. Police are investigating.

The cash is to help Voluntary and Community Sector groups celebrate diversity with activities such as a celebration day.

Previous successful applications included a day showcasing the history and culture around deafness and an event looking at food from around the world.

Councillor Simon Geraghty, Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for planning, economy and performance, said: "These grants offer local organisations a great opportunity to put on events and activities that will help to increase knowledge and understanding of various different sections of the community."

Deadline is Friday, April 1. Details at website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/voluntary

The 1902 factory, part of the former Tomkinson's carpet business, is currently empty but would be used as part of the store.

The 9,200sq m store would be accompanied by about 5,000sq m of offices, 25 new homes and possibly a community centre.

Asda is working with developer Kidderminster Property Investments on the plans.

A public consultation and exhibition will be held before an application is submitted.

Connect

The scheme aims to connect the Horsefair shopping area with the town centre.

Avnish Raichura, property communications manager for Asda, said: "We are very excited about these plans."

"We didn't want to pull down the 1902 building as it is important to local people."

"So we have managed to incorporate it into the scheme."

The exhibition will take place on March 11 and 12 at Unit 7, Churchfields Business Park, Clensmore Street.

Pupils show support for Fairtrade

PUPILS from across the Wyre Forest put on a show to support the international Fairtrade movement.

The Midcounties Co-operative is backing Fairtrade Fortnight 2011, which runs until March 13, and held a day at Kidderminster Town Hall for local schoolchildren to learn about the ethics of fairtrade in a fun environment.

Pupils from St Anne's C of E Primary, Stourport Primary and Franche Community Primary schools spent the day at the hall taking part in activity workshops and rehearsing for an evening performance.

They took part in a blind Fairtrade chocolate taste test, a quiz and decorated bags made from Fairtrade cotton.

Teachers from Caboodle Theatre in Education helped put together the production. Parents were invited to the evening to watch it.

Vicky Powell, senior community co-ordinator for The Midcounties Co-operative, said: "It was such an exciting day. The evening theatre performance was fantastic."



Front, Aiden Pressnall of Stourport Primary, Alice Everley from St Anne's School and Jessica Brett of Franche Primary at the Fairtrade event. With the pupils are, back, Vicky Powell from Midcounties Co-operative and Nicola Brookstein, Caboodle Theatre in Education

Street parties to be made easier

WYRE Forest District Council is making it easier for residents to celebrate the Royal Wedding by holding a street parties.

It is not charging for road closures on April 29, and in most cases party organisers only have to fill in a single form.

Residents can complete the form on street

Bus service gets a new timetable

TIMES for the 303 bus service that runs between Worcester, Ombersley, Kidderminster and Kidderminster Hospital are being revised on Monday.

Worcestershire County Council has worked with the operator, First Bus, to agree the changes to make the service more reliable fol-

lowing feedback from users about punctuality.

It will still run every hour between 7am and 7pm does but at different time patterns.

Passengers can check the timetable at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables or by calling the Worcester-shire Hub on 01905 765765.

Centre cements its Pact

RESIDENTS and traders in Kidderminster town centre are to have their own Pact (Partners and Communities Together) surgeries, starting today (March 10).

The drop-in surgery at Kidderminster town hall was due to run from 10am to midday.

Anyone working or living in the centre of Kidderminster can air views or raise any concerns.

Officers from the Local Policing Team were answering questions and passing on queries to other agencies such as Wyre Forest District Council.

Pc Andy Forbes from Greenhill Local Policing Team said: "Pact meetings are not just about raising police issues but about the environment in which we live and work."

The surgeries will run on every second Thursday of the month.

There will also be a Pact box in the Tesco supermarket in Castle Road so anyone unable to attend can post their comments.

Bright move to raise money

STUDENTS at Kidderminster's Holy Trinity International School (HTIS) helped raise £350 for children's charity Noah's Ark Trust by taking part in an Orange Friday where everyone dressed in that colour.

The charity took part in school assemblies and workshops to highlight its role in bereavement counselling.

Advertisement

Doreen's story

I have so much to thank Mr Burchell for... his advice and wonderful treatment.

I had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a lot of treatment in hospital. The implants I were advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn't heard of the procedure for dentures, but how glad I am that I took Mr Burchell's advice.

To say I am pleased with my new teeth is an understatement.

They are absolutely perfect and a pleasure to wear. I love to show them off. The difference the implants make to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really is life-changing for me.

I found Mr Burchell's expertise second to none and he went to so much trouble to make each visit to the clinic a pleasure.

In the past I would have to consider what food to eat and there was always a problem with food particles becoming trapped under the bottom denture. I no longer have any problem at all and do not have to consider what food I should have or how to eat it.

Life has changed dramatically. The



dentures are so stable I no longer have to cut an apple to eat it. Another great benefit is that I don't have to continually wash my dentures.

I can understand how people would feel nervous about having implants. I am 81 and certainly don't feel too old to invest in such a life-changing experience.

Peter's story

I can eat anything, but that's not always been the case. It's as if I have my natural teeth back and I cannot believe the difference.

Having read good reports of Mr Burchell's reputation at fabricating realistic, natural-looking, well-fitting dentures, I made an appointment to see him.

On my first consultation I explained the difficulty I was having in stopping my lower dentures from moving around and not being retained in a comfortable position.

He suggested I visited implant dentist Jonathan Pugh to determine if I would be suitable for the procedure. I agreed, but not without reservation due to procedure involved. My consultation with Mr Pugh was professional and reassuring and the X-rays he took showed I had sufficient bone to support two implants which could secure my lower denture.

The insertion of the implants was painless – no different to having a filling.

Mr Burchell fitted my perfectly-crafted dentures, securing them to the implants.

They were a superb fit, a situation I



had not experienced for a number of years. While initial costs may appear high, having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision.

The stability of the denture is just great and I can happily go to any restaurant without thinking about what suitable choice might be on the menu.

TRANSFORMATIONS

SOMEONE once said: "A smile happens in a flash, but its memory can last a lifetime."

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For many satisfied patients, our natural-looking teeth and attention to detail has become their natural choice – take a look at their stories.

Terry's story

I'm a confident guy, you know, nothing really keeps me down – even when things are not good. But I had nine years of trouble with my teeth and eventually it began to erode my confidence.

I would never have believed it; I'd have a laugh about it, but it really isn't funny when you have unresolved problems with false teeth.

Dentist eventually referred me to Mr Burchell to see if there was some way of making my plates fit properly. The difference now is a world apart. My plates fit perfectly, look like my real teeth and I can live life impulsively once again. Before, if I was going to a restaurant, I would have to use a fixative to secure my teeth. That was okay if I could eat within a couple of hours of using

the fixative. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can eat anything. Previously, I had never been in contact with an actual denture-maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at every point was excellent. My teeth were well worth the money – what price can you put on being able to eat normally and socialise without embarrassment?

My confidence is back and Mr Burchell did everything he said he would: That my teeth would fit, I would be able to chew properly and they'd look real, totally natural. To sum up, there's nothing I have attempted to eat, which I have not been able to.

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Pupils Carly Lappage, Holly Brookes, Lenny Davies, Elliot Szybel and Paris Ward join the start-of-work celebrations

Work under way at new £4.8m school

A NEW ERA is dawning for the children of Stourport Primary as work begins on their new school.

The £4.8million development is being built on the former Lickhill Middle School site.

Stourport builder Thomas Vale Construction marked the beginning of building work with a balloon release.

Each child attached a card with a wish and there will be a prize from the firm for any found and reported.

The new school will feature 13 classrooms, two school halls, a technology suite including a learning resource area, food science, design and technology rooms and play areas with outside teaching



A computer impression of the finished school

facilities. Each classroom will be fitted with the latest Smart interactive whiteboards and pupils will have access to mobile learning equipment from laptops to iPads.

The new school due to open

chimneys. School pupils have had an input in all aspects of the design and equipment. For the first time they will have access to extensive playing fields.

Head teacher Jacqui Elwis said: "We feel very proud and privileged to be having a new school."

Progress

"The children have been involved from the very beginning working with the architects to design the building – they have had a lot of very interesting ideas."

"We now have a group of children who are keeping a close eye on the progress the builders are making – with weekly reports being heard in assembly. We think it is going to be the best Christmas present ever in 2011."

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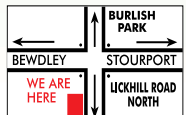
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Offices under hammer

TWO surplus properties belonging to Wyre Forest District Council were going under the hammer today (March 10).

The properties up for grabs through auction house Bigwood are the former council offices at 7 and 8 New Street, Stourport and former retail premises at 55 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster.

The New Street venue is a Grade II listed office building with a guide price of £300,000-plus. The Blackwell Street terraced property is pitched at £35,000-plus.

The auction is at Aston Villa FC at 11am.

Book sale at church

A BEWDLEY church book sale which attracts buyers from across the Black Country is set to host its next event.

The nearly new book sale, at All Saints Church, Kidderminster Road, will take place on Monday, March 14, from 10am until 12.30pm.

The sale will boast books, videos, DVDs, CDs and jigsaws and refreshments will also be available.

Big bin boost for recycling



Pupils from Franche Primary – many displaying eco-badges – with their new recycling bin

A KIDDERMINSTER school has become one of the first in the district to sign up to a recycling programme.

Franchise Community Primary School's Eco-team has taken delivery of a new 1,100-litre recycling bin and quickly got to work on a presentation to the rest of the school.

Pupils already recycle paper and cardboard. With the new bin

on site they hope to cut the waste they send to landfill by a third.

Plastic containers and bottles, cans and tins, glass, milk and juice cartons can all go into the recycling bin. Franchise Community Primary has already obtained a silver flag on the Eco-Schools programme and also won one of the four top prizes in Wyre Forest District Council's Christmas competition, From Litter to Glitter.

The school is also taking part in the Yellow Pages and Woodland Trust's Yellow Woods Challenge, collecting the front covers of Yellow Pages directories.

Councillor Nathan Desmond, cabinet member for resources, said: "It's fantastic that some schools are taking up the recycling service offered by the council as they'll be able to cut the amount of waste they send to landfill."

Cars plea by training project

AN ALTERNATIVE education project which helps young people from Kidderminster needs donations – of cars.

Wheels helps those who struggle with mainstream schooling. The project, in Stourbridge, provides training and

education through motor mechanics for 100 young people aged 14-19 from the Kidderminster and Dudley Borough areas.

It's hugely successful, with more than 90 per cent of those taking part gaining Institute of Motor Industries or National Open College Network qualifications. But the popularity of

the course means that it needs a continuous supply of vehicles, engines and tools.

Ian Hinkman, Barnardo's manager, said: "With up to 50 young people working on vehicles in the workshop at any one time five days a week, we need a constant supply of vehicles."

"We're going to build a fast KA

and another vehicle so need a Sierra and the KA to take parts from as well as other vehicles.

"We are also desperate for good quality tools and would like to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring us to buy four mechanics' tool cabinets."

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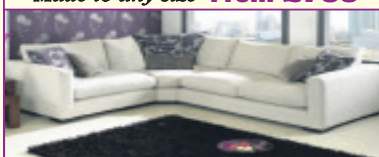
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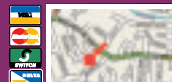


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Tributes flood in for tragic mother

TRIBUTES have poured in for an "attractive and bubbly" young mother found dead on a sports field next to her old school at Stourport.

The Worcestershire coroner is investigating the unexplained death of Bronnie Clewlow, aged 27, who leaves a five-year-old son, Oliver. She was reported missing from her home on Sunday of last

week and her body was discovered the following morning.

A member of staff from Stourport High School made the discovery next to a cycle track at the nearby Stourport Sports Club.

Messages of sadness have been posted on social networking site Facebook, including several from her boyfriend, Michael Shimmin, who said: "Just wish I told you how much I loved you more than I

did babes," Miss Clewlow, of North Road, Stourport, listed a total of 866 friends on her Facebook site and among many messages posted since her death was one saying: "RIP Bronnie. Always in our thoughts and hearts."

Chet Mistry, who runs DNA News in Minster Road, Stourport, with his mother Nayna Mistry, had known Miss Clewlow for many years, first as a fellow pupil at the town's high school and later as a customer.

"Bronnie was bubbly, very attractive and everyone liked her - she would always talk and smile," said Mr Mistry, aged 29.

"She was the life and soul of the party when you saw her out and had a lovely little boy."

He added: "I know Bronnie had been through a hard time about six months ago, although I don't know the cause of that."

Lovely

"But I saw her last Thursday, when she came into the shop with her boyfriend, Michael Shimmin, and some other friends, she was smiling and seemed happy. It is so sad."

A relative, who asked not to be named, said: "Bronnie was a lovely girl and very beautiful. It's a tragic waste."

Police are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

An inquest was adjourned last Wednesday for reports after it was heard that the medical cause of death was not yet known.

Thieves hit restaurant

THIEVES broke into Frankie and Bennys restaurant in Weavers Wharf, Kidderminster, and stole a large amount of cash.

It happened at about 12.20am on Monday.

Police have appealed to witnesses to contact Pc Jon Challoner on 0300 333 3000, quoting reference 48-S-070311, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Warning on tax 'rebate'

PEOPLE are being urged to be on their guard after a Kidderminster man nearly fell victim to a scam after he received an email claiming to be from the Inland Revenue stating he was owed £900 and asking for bank account details.

However, no details were provided, after his mother, who worked for the Inland Revenue, heard about it, and alerted police.

Future focus

PEOPLE are being invited to a Stourport Facilities Project Focus Group meeting at noon on Saturday, March 19, at Stourport Civic Hall, New Street, to help map consider the future of the town's public buildings and facilities.

Shed alert

POLICE in Bewdley are warning residents to be extra vigilant after a spate of shed break-ins. Five were recorded in the last two weeks of February including one in Rectory Lane, Rock, and another in Dry Mill Lane.

Who are you? Harriers' fans

STAFF and pupils from a Kidderminster school hit the back of the net with a fundraising day for their local football team.

Franchise Community Primary, based in Chesnut Grove, raised £250 for debt-ridden Kidderminster Harriers by dressing up as their favourite book characters.

As part of World Book Day, which took place on March 3, youngsters and teachers donned a variety of outfits to celebrate their favourite books.

And Harriers midfielder Dave Hankin popped in to surprise the children and say a big thank you for their efforts.

The school has a long-standing relationship with Harriers, which has run after-school football clubs for the past few years and currently holds sessions for pupils in years three and six.

Headteacher Val Weddell Hall said: "Everyone really embraced the day, creating and wearing wonderful outfits."



Dressing up for World Book Day are, back from left, Joe Dobson and Rosie Newman, both aged five, and front, Lennon Talbot, five, Gregor Stuart, four and Nail Scott, five



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Wyre Forest joins super-size LEP

WYRE FOREST has joined the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which has become one of the biggest in the country.

Redditch has also become a member, joining East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, Bromsgrove and Cannock in addition to Birmingham and Solihull following a meeting of the LEP Development Board.

The move was hailed by Wyre Forest District Council and by local industry.

Council leader Councillor John Campion said the council was delighted to be a

member. "We recognise the importance of LEPs as they will be central to regional growth," he said.

"Being a member will mean we will be at the heart of the decision-making process and it will give us an influential role in the economic success of the area."

Prosperity

"Securing the economic prosperity of the district is one of our priorities. In our recent budget we put investment into our regeneration and economic development services," he added.

"We feel that by being a member of this

LEP and the Worcestershire LEP we will be well placed to work with the urban conurbations to the north of the county and the rural areas to the south."

Tony Hyde, managing director of Thomas Vale Construction Plc, said: "My business is one of many in the Wyre Forest that have deep and extensive links in the Birmingham area as well as in Worcestershire."

"The news that Wyre Forest will also be in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP means that the needs of businesses in the district will be on the agenda in this important partnership as well," said Mr Hyde.



Thomas Dent, aged 10, from Stourport keeps smiling despite the sugar glider in his hair while it's all a giggle for Ellie Dusconi

Pupils let furry fun go to their heads

INTREPID Stourport children got up close and personal with a few furry and slimy friends as part of an educational event at Stourport Library.

Animal Mania, a mobile zoo from Worcester, brought in snakes, lizards, giant rabbits, chinchillas and sugar gliders for youngsters to interact with.

The zoo runs regular events at Stourport Library and staff said they always proved to be popular, with a maximum of 30 signing up for the most recent one during February half term.

Staff at the library also got involved and customer advisor Chantal Dawson said it was a fun experience. "It went very well and all the children enjoyed themselves," she said. "We had to touch them too but it was okay after a while."

"The sugar gliders were jumping around all over the place - they were really funny. These events always work very well and we had to limit the amount of children we let in as this one was so popular."

The library, based on Worcester Street, recently reopened after reinstallation of self-service machines. For more information on events at the library contact it via the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 822722.



Brothers Sebastian, 10, and Silas Moule, seven, from Bewdley, meet chinchillas Rocky and Split



Thomas Dent, Ellie Dusconi and Carla Saunders, from Animal Mania, with snakes and a bearded dragon

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get set for digital 

Students to have their day in court

STUDENTS from three local schools are actually looking forward to a day in court.

They are in the county heat of the national 2011 Schools Mock Trial Competition. Students from Haybridge High School, Hagley; King Charles I School, Kidderminster – last year's runners-up – and The Bewdley School will be at Worcester Magistrates Court on Saturday, March 19.

'Nelson hair' for £62,000

LOCKS of hair thought to be from Horatio Nelson and his lover, Lady Hamilton, have sold for more than 10 times their estimation.

The hair, which was found among the contents of a desk at Shakenhurst Hall, Shropshire went under the hammer for £62,000 at Holloway's in Banbury.

A note, dated 1841, which refers to the British consul in Calais, Henry Cadogan, who helped Lady Hamilton after Nelson's death, was also found with the hair.

On the auctioneers' website the lot was estimated to fetch between £3,000 and £5,000.

Felix launches music nights

ICONIC singer/songwriter Julie Felix will play the opening night of Worcester Guildhall's new monthly music nights, Gilded Fridays.

Felix, whose musical career has spanned four decades, will appear on March 18. Tickets: www.malvern-theatres.co.uk or 01684 892277.

Waving the flag for nostalgia



Enjoying the 1940s day are resident Len Morgan, aged 96, seated, and staff, from left, Teresa Williams, Jemma Crowle, Sally Thresh, and Jason Jones

RESIDENTS were taken back in time to the days of ration books and gas masks during a 1940s event in Kidderminster.

Staff at Bryden House care home dressed up in period costume and served up a traditional fish and chip lunch.

The centre in Marlpool Lane was filled with nostalgic music from the likes of Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn. In

the afternoon residents enjoyed a high tea with crumpets.

Activities co-ordinator Sally Thresh said the event on February 25 had been organised for the national Dignity Action Day, which encourages staff throughout the country to provide a memorable day for people receiving care. "The residents loved the 1940s day and had a lot of fun," she said. "It was a very nostalgic event."



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TOM CAMPBELL



I'm fit for purpose – to take part in the 5k run

THIS is my last column before the big day.

Sunday, March 13th; the day I put my body through more gruesome exercise than it's ever known in the past 27 years of pasties and chocolate biscuits.

I was nervous, but I am now strangely excited by the prospect of the 5k. This is because I discovered a brand new muscle on my leg at the weekend, genuine proof that I am adapting to this ridiculous fitness regime.

Despite the fact that I've grown to like the idea of doing a 5k jog, I will be happy when it's over... so next time we speak, I will no doubt be the fittest, healthiest man in the Wyre Forest (or not!).

By the way, it's still not late to donate to the British Heart Foundation. You can do so over at www.thewyre.com – many thanks!

Once again, I'd like to say a big thanks to Anthony Holland, who's been a massive support through the process (he's doing the London Marathon as well, crazy fellow... donate some

money to his charities of choice over at www.justgiving.com/antholland), and The Wyre's resident Stourport Road Stunner, Nina, who's been keeping me on the straight and narrow too.

Thank you guys... when I say I couldn't have done it without you I mean it. I'd be slumped in a bus stop somewhere eating mash potato and crying, so thanks!

And also a big thank you to all the listeners who have been calling to offer me support and berate me when I've fallen off the wagon. It's lovely to know you're all out there!

Well, I shall catch you all soon. Feel free to pop down and see the 5k in all its glory on Sunday morning and watch as a chubby, bearded radio presenter pretends he's Usain Bolt for half an hour. You're always welcome to join in the fun on the Tom Campbell Breakfast Show every morning from 6am on The Wyre. It would be lovely if you could join us. I'll put out the best cutlery and everything! Love, light and peas to you all!

TOP TEN PLAYLIST OF WEEK



Eliza Doolittle – take the medicine

Obvious
Emin

Kidz
Take That

Price Tag
Jessie J

Rolling in the Deep
Adele

Mr Medicine
Eliza Doolittle

Upside Down
Paloma Faith

Lights
Ellie Goulding

Back to December
Taylor Swift

I Don't Know
Kassidy

Love Again for the
First Time
Julian Velard

DANI WOZENCROFT FROM WYRE NEWS WITH THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving...

Kidderminster

Mill Street, Coventry Street and Hoo Road have temporary traffic lights opposite number 45 until tomorrow (March 11).

Hoo Road is closed near the A449 Chester Road South on March 13.

Lisle Avenue has temporary traffic lights until May 13.

Bewdley

Load Street has temporary traffic lights at the Bewdley Bridge today (March 10).

Winbrook Road has gas main

work from Merricks Lane junction to Winbrook Mews until March 25.

Winterfold

A448 Bromsgrove Road has temporary traffic lights from Lower Lodge to the Curslow Lane junction until March 14.

Fairfield

Stourbridge Road has temporary traffic lights until April 8.

Arley

The Button Oak to Arley Road has temporary traffic lights by Bannut Tree Farm tomorrow (March 11).

Pound Green

The Button Oak to Arley Road has temporary traffic lights by Cherry Orchard Farm tomorrow (March 11).

Winterfold

A448 Bromsgrove Road has temporary traffic lights from the Lower Lodge to Curslow Lane junction until March 14.

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads. Tune into 107.2 The Wyre.

You can be a Jambuster, call 0333 123 1072.



Counting down to the big show

THE countdown is on for Scouting members preparing for the Younger Generation Gang Show.

Curtain up is in just a few weeks for the cast and crew of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders from the Severn and Teme and Kidderminster area.

They are putting on the show from April 14-16 at Stourport High School and working flat out to ensure that the four performances are packed with fun.

The show is made up of musical montages, dance items and sketches aimed at a family audience.

Classic

With that in mind, there will be a matinee performance at 2pm on Saturday, April 16 to complement the three evening performances which start at 7.15pm on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Publicity officer Ann Denton said: "Everyone's been working really hard since October."

"There's songs from the shows, music from the movies, captivating costumes, a new twist to a classic story and so much more!"

Adult tickets cost £6.50 (£5.50 matinee), child and concession tickets £4 (£3.50 matinee) with discounts for family tickets and group bookings.

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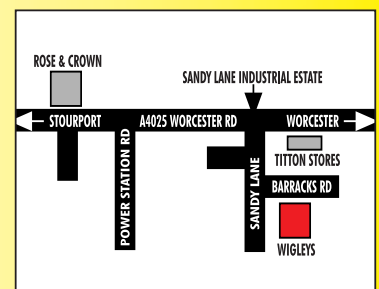
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CHARITY FEATURE



March is the great Daffodil Appeal for Marie Curie Cancer Care, here's some facts and figures you may, or may not, know about the charity's work

Marie Curie Nurses

- The charity is best known for its network of 2,000 Marie Curie Nurses working in the community to provide end-of-life care, totally free for patients in their own homes.
- Last year we cared for more than 31,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in our nine hospices.
- There is a Marie Curie Nursing Service available to 96 per cent* of the UK.
- We mainly care for people with cancer but we also care for people with other life-limiting illnesses such as dementia, Motor Neurone Disease and heart failure.
- While four in five (79 per cent) of the UK population are aware of Marie Curie Cancer Care, a survey* commissioned by the charity last year revealed the same percentage doesn't know if there is a Marie Curie Nursing Service available to them locally.
- Few also know how to access the service - just under half (48 per cent) responded 'Don't know' when asked how they would go about getting a Marie Curie Nurse.
- To access a Marie Curie Nurse, patients and/or their carers should speak to their GP or District Nurse.

Marie Curie Hospices

- Marie Curie has nine hospices
- It is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS
- Marie Curie Hospices provide care for patients with cancer and other illnesses and provide support for families and carers, all completely free of charge.

Funding

- Around 70 per cent of the charity's income comes from the generous support of thousands of individuals, membership organisations and businesses, with the balance of our funds coming from the NHS.
- We spend more than £83 million a year on our care and research activities.
- For every £1 we receive, 70p is spent directly on providing end of life care and research, 22p is invested to generate future funds and 8p is spent on support, governance and raising awareness.
- Our services are always free of charge to patients and their families, which means that in 2009-10, we will need to raise more than £127 million.

Research

- Marie Curie's pioneering programme of palliative care research is showing how we can better care for cancer patients.
- The charity has two centres for palliative care research, The Marie Curie Palliative Care Unit in London and The Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in Liverpool.
- It also funds seven fundamental scientific research groups which investigate the causes and treatments of cancer.
- Following Marie Curie Cancer Care's decision to change the emphasis of its research activity away from cancer cure and prevention, the charity has invested an additional £1million into a new fund for end of life care research across the UK.
- This is part of a collaboration with Cancer Research UK which will provide expert advice on applications, grant funding and the peer review process.

Supporting the Choice to Die at Home

- Research shows around 65 per cent of people would like to die at home if they had a terminal illness, with a sizeable minority opting for hospice care. However, more than 50 per cent of cancer deaths still occur in hospital, the place people say they would least like to be.
- Since 2004 Marie Curie Cancer Care has been campaigning for more patients to be able to make the choice to be cared for and die at home

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Call for more information or ask for a free timetable on
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Stoney Lane, Kidderminster, DY10 2LX
Rainbow Centre Spring Timetable

RAINBOW AT ST MARY'S, Stoney Lane DY10 2LX

MONDAY *Church House Nursery* 7.30 am-5.30 pm
Stay, Weigh and Play (0-5 years) 9.30 am-11.00 am
Health Visitor attends 1st and 3rd Monday of the month
Economic Advisor 9.30 am-10.45 am
Young Parents Group (Drop In) 7th March 11.30 am-12.45 pm (see advert in Newsletter)

TUESDAY *Church House Nursery* 7.30 am-5.30 pm
Baby Group, Non Walkers 9.30 am-11.30 am
Counselling Sessions Marilyn 9.00 am-1.00 pm Please check with Children's Centre for specific dates and to book

WEDNESDAY *Church House Nursery* 7.30 am-5.30 pm
St Mary's School Family Learning Group 9.00 am-12.00 noon

THURSDAY *Church House Nursery* 7.30 am-5.30 pm
Childminder Drop In 3rd Thursday of the month 9.30 am-11.00 am
Stay and Play Tremendous Toddlers (1-4 years) 1.00 pm-2.30 pm
Jobcentre Plus Advisor 2nd Thursday of the month 1.00 pm-2.30 pm

FRIDAY *Church House Nursery* 7.30 am-5.30 pm
Talking Walk In 4th Friday of the month 9.00 am-1.00 pm
Healthy Tots and Lunch Term time 11.45 am-1.15 pm

GLADES LEISURE CENTRE, Bromsgrove Street DY10 2PP

TUESDAY *Tots Can Swim* (0-3 years) Water Babies 10.45 am-11.30 am

THURSDAY *Tots Can Swim* (3-4 years) Little Dolphins 1.30 pm-2.00 pm

RAINBOW AT RADORD AVENUE, DY10 2PU

MONDAY *Stay and Play* (0-5 years) 1.00 pm-2.30 pm (Outing on 14th March)
One World Community Event for Muslim parents and their children under 5, Mother and Child 10.30 am-12.30 pm then Lunch, Father and Child 1.30 pm-2.30 pm

WEDNESDAY *Stay and Play* (0-5 years) 9.30 am-11.00 am

SATURDAY *Dad's Group* (0-5 years)
The 1st Saturday of the month 10.00 am-12.00 noon
Please see advert in newsletter for details and the venue

RAINBOW AT ST OSWALDS, Sion Avenue DY10 2LY

TUESDAY *Baby Group* under 1's and siblings 1.00 pm-2.30 pm
Economic Advisor 2nd Tuesday of every month 9.15 am-11.15 am

THURSDAY *Health Centre Physiotherapy Group* 9.00 am-12.30 pm

FRIDAY *Stay and Messy Play* (0-5 years) 9.15 am-11.15 am

What the colours mean
BROWN - First Class Nursery **BLUE** - Drop In Groups **ORANGE** - One off/special events
GREEN - Pre-book courses/training/sessions **PURPLE** - Referral only Session

For more information telephone 01562 742991 or call in at Rainbow at St Mary's

Chestnut Children's Centre Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster DY11 5QB

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We offer a whole host of services every week, with everything from:

- Swimming Lessons • Baby massage
- Cooking courses • Stay and play sessions
- Adult learning opportunities (with free creche facilities through our onsite childcare)
- Counselling Service
- Access to child and family health services (antenatal, postnatal and child health)
- Links to JCP and family support

COMING SOON

'Mums's on the Run' is a 6 week fitness course designed to improve post-natal fitness, core strength and confidence

'Soccer Stars' 6 week courses for fun, active soccer related games for pre-schoolers learn simple football techniques and skills through play. Make new friends and have fun for 3-5 year olds.

If you're interested call the number below

For more information contact:
Chestnut Children's Centre on 01562 69052
Or visit our website on www.chestnutchildrenscentre.org.uk and www.franche726.org.uk

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Baby Groups **Dads Group** **Messy Play**

Midwife Clinic **Story and Play Sessions** **Family Fun Days**

Health Visitor **Speech and Language Sessions** **Antenatal Services** **Home Safety Checks**

Parents 2B Sessions **Counselling Service** **Breast Feeding Support**

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We believe in a better future for all children, come and join us

Call for more information or ask for a free timetable on
01299 877920

TreeTops Sure Start Children's Centre
Woodbury Road Kidderminster DY11 7JJ 01562 514980

TreeTops Spring Timetable

TREETOPS CHILDREN'S CENTRE Woodbury Road, DY11 7JJ

MONDAY *Nursery* 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Childminder Drop-In 2nd Monday of each month 1.00 pm-2.30 pm
Woodbury Creche (by referral) 9.00 am-11.00 am and use of Sensory Room
Young Parents Group (Drop In) 28th March 10.30 am-12.00 pm

TUESDAY *Nursery* 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Stay and Play (0-5 yrs) 9.15 am-11.00 am
Speech and Language Clinic (by referral) 12.30 pm-5.00 pm
Introduction to Solid Foods Sessions Every 2nd Tuesday of the month 1.00 pm-2.00 pm, 8th March, 12th April
Woodbury Creche (by referral) 12.30 pm-2.30 pm and use of Sensory Room
Woodbury Drop In 2.30 pm-4.00 pm
Counselling Sessions with Marilyn Please ring the children's centre for dates and to make an appointment

WEDNESDAY *Nursery* 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Stay and Weigh (0-5 yrs) Health Visitor attends 9.30 am-11.30 am and use of Sensory Room
Economic Advisor - Available 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 9.00 am-11.30 am - need to book
Woodbury Creche (by referral) 12.45 pm-2.45 pm and use of Sensory Room
Royal Wedding Street Party 27th April 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm (Call for info)

THURSDAY *Nursery* 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Bumps & Baby Buddies (Under 1s) 9.30 am-11.30 am and use of Sensory Room
Breast Feeding Support
International Women's Day 10th March 10.00 am - 11.30 am
Midwife Appointments please book with TreeTops reception. 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
Clothes Exchange - 2nd Thursday of the Month 10.00 am - 11.00 am
Stay and Messy Play 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm
Economic Advisor Available 3rd Thursday of the month 1.30 pm - 4.15 pm
Time 4 U (Sexual Advice) 3.00 pm-4.00 pm
Baby Yoga 10.45 am - 11.45 am 17th, 24th, 31st March, 7th April

FRIDAY *Nursery* 9.00 am-4.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Buggy Walk Last Friday of the month 10.00 am-11.30 am
Healthy Eating Friday Lunch (0-5 yrs) 12.00 noon-1.00 pm and use of Sensory Room
Job Centre Plus Advisor First Friday of the month 10.00 am-12.00 am
Parents Forum 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm 1st April
Woodbury Drop In 9.15 am-12.00 pm and use of Sensory Room

SATURDAY *For Dads with children aged 0-5 years* The first Saturday of the month
Please see advert in newsletter for details and the venue

GLADES LEISURE CENTRE Bromsgrove Street, DY10 2PP

TUESDAY *Tots Can Swim* (0-3 yrs) Water Babies 10.45 am-11.30 am

THURSDAY *Tots Can Swim* (3-4 yrs) Little Dolphins 1.30 pm-2.00 pm

ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL Canterbury Road, DY11 6DH

WEDNESDAY *Stay, Weigh and Play* (0-5 yrs) 9.15 am-11.00 am

RED CROSS Park Street, DY11 6TR

THURSDAY *Stay and Play* (0-5 yrs) Currently out of action due to building issues

What the colours mean
Brown - First Class Nursery **Blue** - Drop-in Groups **Orange** - One-Off/Special Events
Green - Pre-book Courses/Training/Sessions **Purple** - Referral Only Sessions

For more information telephone 01562 514980 or call in at TreeTops

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KEY:	Green Groups Just Turn Up	Blue Groups Booked Courses	Purple Groups Clinics	Orange Outside Groups
Please note that some classes must be pre booked - please call for information				
Monday	Talking Walk In 9-12pm 2nd Monday of month Multi-Purpose Room	Counselling Service Ring to book an appointment MIDWIFE CLINIC MOVED TO WED MORNINGS FROM 1st MARCH	Children's Group 9.30-12.15pm Baby/Toddler Room Bread Terry Ring to book	Worms and Wellies (Eco Tots) (2-5 yrs) 10.30-11.30am Emily/Victoria
Tuesday	Stay 'n' Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11.00am Toddler Room Kim/Delia	Counselling Service Ring to book an appointment MIDWIFE CLINIC MOVED TO WED MORNINGS FROM 1st MARCH	Stay 'n' Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11am Toddler Room Maddie	Big Chef/Little Chef (2-5 yrs) 11.45-12.45pm Kim/Victoria Ring to Book
Wednesday	Baby Signing (4 Months - 18 Months) 10-11am Baby Room	Midwife Clinic 9am-12pm Health Room	Stay 'n' Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11am Toddler Room Maddie	NCT Group 10-11.30am Last Friday of Month PM
Thursday	Baby Signing (4 Months - 18 Months) 10-11am Baby Room	Children's Group 9.30-12.15pm Baby/Toddler Room Bread Terry Ring to book	Stay 'n' Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11am Toddler Room Maddie	Worms and Wellies (Eco Tots) (2-5 yrs) 10.30-11.30am Emily/Victoria
Friday	Baby Signing (4 Months - 18 Months) 10-11am Baby Room	Children's Group 9.30-12.15pm Baby/Toddler Room Bread Terry Ring to book	Stay 'n' Play (0-5 yrs) 9.30-11am Toddler Room Maddie	Worms and Wellies (Eco Tots) (2-5 yrs) 10.30-11.30am Emily/Victoria

2nd SATURDAY of the month - Dad's Group - 10am - 12pm
12th March, 9th April & 14th May 2011

Des is facing up to losing prize beard



Des Weaver and his wife, Eunice, who is happy his beard will soon be cut off to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and the British Lung Foundation

HE HAS been growing it for more than 14 months.

However, in a few weeks' time Des Weaver, from Cradley Heath, will be shaving his precious beard off for two good causes.

The grandfather, a retired electrician, is trying to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and the British Lung Foundation.

He aims to cut the beard, which is about 10in long, when he turns 69 on March 22.

"I have had so much fun growing it," he said.

"People stop me in the street and say 'goodness gracious it must have taken years to have grown that'. They can't believe it's taken just 14 months.

"I look pretty gruesome because I have let my hair grow as well. People say I look like Uncle Albert from Only Fools and Horses."

Offered

Mr Weaver, a father-of-four from The Mount, started to grow the beard last January and decided that it would be a good way to make some money for charity after a friend offered him money to get rid of it.

"I got up on New Year's Day and I thought 'no' I am not having a shave today," he said. "And it just went from there.

"Adrian Chiles was growing a beard for his New Year's resolution and I thought if he is going to do it, I will as well.

"He got rid of his a few weeks later but I am still going strong - for now at least."

Anyone who wishes to make a donation is urged to call 0121 559 3396.

Schools say No to one in ten children

AROUND one in 10 children in Dudley will miss out on their first choice secondary school this year.

Hundreds of thousands of children in the country have discovered which school they have been allocated for this September as part of National Offers Day.

Across the borough around 391 students missed out on a place at their first-choice school this September (2011), with 88 per cent submitting successful applications out of a total of 3,262 students.

The percentage of successful applications was down on last year.

Around 90 per of children were offered their first choice school last September out of 3,394.

In Sandwell, 1,010 missed out on their first choice school, with 73 per cent submitting successful applications. Around 3,741 youngsters applied in total.

Last year, 72 per cent of youngsters in the borough got their first choice of secondary school.

Talk on heroes

MAX Keen will be speaking on The Anglo Zulu War of 1879 at Stourbridge Historical Society. His talk on March 17 will feature the stories of two heroes from Kingswinford and Brierley Hill who both won the Victoria Cross. It takes place at 7.30pm in the Ambler Room of Stourbridge Town Hall.

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m.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

* The Editor's decision is final. Competition not open to employees of MNA and their immediate relatives. Winner will be notified by post and must agree to any relevant publicity.

thechronicle

Blind 'buddy' scheme given £300,000 boost

A "BUDDY" scheme for people suffering with the loss of sight in Dudley and North Worcestershire has been extended for another five years, thanks to a £300,000 grant.

The Thomas Pocklington Trust's Stourbridge centre, is based at the Mary Stevens Centre in Hagley Road. It has been running a pilot scheme where volunteers are paired with people who are partially sighted or blind, since 2009.

The lottery grant will also help the charity expand its befriending programme to more people, and will be able to offer a wider range of activities for them to get involved in.

Chief executive Peter Corbett said staff and volunteers were all "delighted".

"This is wonderful news," he added. "The scheme gives support to people with sight loss in their own homes, preserving their independence and quality of life."

Recruiting

"With this grant we can now expand the scheme and run it for five years."

The money will be spent recruiting and training volunteers, who are then matched up with someone suffering from sight loss.

They then visit their "partner" and help them with tasks such as reading their mail and doing their shopping, as well as keeping them company and accompanying them on social days out.

Mr Corbett said: "The scheme helps to reduce isolation for people with sight loss who may live alone or receive limited support."

He said the scheme was also used to provide respite for full-time carers. For more information on volunteering call 01384 441222.

Make a bee-line

THE Transition Bewdley Food Group meets next Thursday when Richard Murgatroyd, of Kidderminster Beekeepers Association, will talk on Beekeeping and the benefits of honey and other hive products at the Baptist Church, High Street, Bewdley. But bring a home-cooked dish for a shared supper at 7pm or arrive in time for the talk at 8pm.

Wedding car plea is answered



Owner Robert Hathaway, in the driving seat, with Carole Geary and Robert Baker inside the Bristol 410 and inset, the couple in front of their dream car

A MOTORING fanatic has found the dream car for his wedding after an appeal for help.

Robert Baker, aged 59, of Wall Heath, and his fiancée Carole Geary will have a Bristol 410 at the ceremony this month.

The day will be especially poignant as it was announced last week that the historic firm has gone into administration.

Robert Hathaway, owner of Bell End Farm, Belbroughton, saw an article on Mr Baker's search and offered to help.

Miss Geary, a hairdresser's assistant, will be taken to the Church of Ascension in Wall Heath by Mr Hathaway in the 1968 model.

He also owns a 1955 Bristol 404, which he bought 40 years ago, and

said he "loves the design" of the cars.

Self-employed builder Mr Baker has fantasised about owning a Bristol since he was a boy.

And though he could not afford the £50,000 price tag attached to one, he hoped someone would lend him one for his big day.

He said: "I was so pleased when Robert got in touch. The car will be a real head turner on the day."

Saved

Mr Baker, of Forge Lane, owns an MG RV8, which he bought in Japan for £15,000. He had saved up for years.

He and Miss Geary have known each other for about 25 years and got engaged 18 months ago.

His love affair with the Bristol began when he saw one when he was 10 years

old in Wall Heath. He said: "They are pure luxury and are from a time when cars were individually made." The 410 dates back the 1960s, and is used in the BBC series The Inspector Lynley Mysteries.

The firm has been hand-building luxury cars since 1946 at its factory in Filton in the north of Bristol. But administrators have been appointed at the company.

GAMES

Wii love to dance

Just Dance 2 (3, Ubisoft)

THE sequel to one of the Wii's most popular dance games stays top by keeping things simple - you simply mirror the moves of the silhouetted dancer on screen whilst holding the Wii-mote in the highlighted hand.

There is a super selection of music, ranging from The Pussycat Dolls to The Rolling Stones, and a new Duets mode allows two to perform complementary moves, or two pairs in four-player mode.

The Dance Battle mode pits you against your friends in a series of mini-games too.

Michael Jackson The Experience (12, Ubisoft)

Dance like the King of Pop to a selection of his original hits. Getting started was a bit fiddly because of the back and forth to the menu when checking out the dance instructor introductions but you don't need their advice. Go straight to the songs and it is simple to follow the Jackson stand-in as he takes you through those familiar signature moves, so I guess the 12 rating is due to the old Jacko groin grab move?

Soon you will be shuffling like a zombie through Thriller or stepping to the familiar

beat of Billie Jean. The actual videos are not used but the dance routines keep true to the style of the originals as you try to score points by copying them as faithfully as possible.

Up to eight can play by passing the Wii-mote. Get that moonwalk right and you really could be starting something.

Dance Juniors (3, Ubisoft)

Similar to Just Dance but more for little kids with nursery rhymes and children's songs alongside favourite pop covers. **LB**

These games are available on Wii and for some other platforms too.

Dream of yesteryear Greatest hits from the top of PopCap

Dreamcast Collection (12, Sega)

AAAH, the Dreamcast. Many fans of the best console of the 1990s will forever bear a grudge against Sony for the then inferior PlayStation's victory in the console wars, which persuaded Sega to give up hardware and become a content provider only.

Maybe that's why so many Dreamcast refugees became ardent Xbox supporters. So many former Dreamcast fans were delighted to hear that some of the obsolete system's games were being ported to Xbox 360, originally via subscription service Xbox Live Arcade.

Four of them are selected for this compilation, available for X360 and PC, but it's not an entirely happy package. Like watching a favourite kids' TV show decades later, the passage of time shows up the flaws. Also the fact that you have to reboot the disc to swap games is a chore.

Then there are problems with the transfer. Crazy Taxi is still great fun and has that 'Beetlejuice' style voiceover but misses



Ulaia in action in Space Channel 5 part 2

the original soundtrack featuring such 90s punk favourites as The Offspring. Sega Bass Fishing, the arcade angling game, isn't quite as much fun without the fishing rod controller that came as an accessory for the Dreamcast. Better served is Sonic Adventure, which is much as I remember it, a blue blur. Also good is Space Channel 5, the quirky Japanese dancing game where you have to remember combinations of button pushes. The return of the sassy Ulaia

and the catchy music is welcome. For some reason, probably the presence of 'Space' Michael Jackson, we get the part two version, when it would have been nice to start at the beginning with Ulaia's spat with another off-planet TV presenter. But the alien dance-offs remain tremendously silly and addictive.

The trip down memory lane is certainly worth it and may even send you up the loft in search of that Dreamcast console you couldn't bring yourself to get rid of. **LB**

PopCap Hits! (3, Pop Cap)

PopCap Hits Vol 2 (12, Pop Cap)

POPCAP are the leading brand in puzzle games across the platforms, from PC to mobile phone via Xbox Live Arcade. These two selections of their best sellers do Xbox 360 now allows non-XBLA subscribers to get their hands on some of the best 2D time-wasters around.

PopCap Hits 1 features that mother of all addictive puzzle games Bejeweled, albeit in its slightly tweaked Bejeweled 2 form. The gem swapping game is a classic. The other games include the equally addictive Peggle, which blends Pinball with Breakout; Feeding Frenzy, 50 levels of a fishy battle for survival; and mildly diverting also-ran, Astro Pop, a block swapping exercise.

PopCap Hits Volume 2 (released on March 11) boasts Plants Vs Zombies, one of the most popular casual games around, probably second only to the all-conquering Angry Birds. Plants Vs Zombies, most recently a big hit on Xbox Live, is basically a tower defence game but with yourself and neighbour Crazy Dave protecting your property from the living dead via thoughtfully positioned foliage. It's a real brain teaser delivered with macabre humour. Also in the four game package are Feeding Frenzy 2, if the original 50 levels were not enough for seafood chomping; the classic Zuma in which a ball spitting frog has to fend off an implacable flow of coloured balls by matching three in a row; and frenetic shoot-em-up action in Heavy Weapon. It adds up to the better of the two PopCap compilations. **Leon Burakowski**

the pulse

Eliza hopes to do a lot

ONE of the brightest British pop breakthroughs of 2010 was the delightful Eliza Doolittle with her self-titled debut album, which was back in the top 10 last week despite being released last summer.

Her breezy freewheeling retro pop has more hooks than a fishing tackle shop and the latest track to be released as a single – Mr Medicine – follows the success of Skinny Genes and Pack Up.

Real name Eliza Sophie Caird, the 22-year-old is the grand-daughter of Sylvia Young, famous for her London theatre school. Her father, John Caird, is a director with the Royal Shakespeare Company and her mother, Frances Ruffelle, was the original Eponine in West End blockbuster Les Misérables. So there must be something in those genes, skinny or otherwise.

In the autumn she achieved that rare feat for a support act at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall when she got a full house for her short set before headliner Paloma Faith, and the London-born singer and model will have a capacity audience again when she performs at the city's Wulfrun Hall on Saturday, April 2.

Old punks ready to be heroes to more

ONE of the most influential bands of the punk era, The Stranglers, are back on the road. The rock veterans, who in the 70s widened the musical horizons of punks with their tracks rich with keyboards as well as aggressive energy, issued a greatest hits plus new tracks double album recently, Decades Apart, that serves as reminder of their impact on the British music scene.

The band formed in Guildford, Surrey, in 1974, though none came from the town and they were an odd assortment of classically trained guitarist, jazz drummer and blues musicians, united by an appreciation of psychedelic rock groups like The Doors. They became one of the biggest bands of the punk era with a hardman image and songs such as Grip, Peaches/Go Buddy Go, Five Minutes and No More Heroes.

They then went on to have massive crossover success in the 80s with a mellower sound typified by Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Always The Sun. The band's original singer Hugh Cornwell quit the group to go solo in 1990 and Paul Roberts was the singer during the rest of that decade. He left in 2006 for an acting career and is now working as a Frank Sinatra impersonator. The Stranglers are now a quartet featuring originals Jean-Jacques Burnel (born in London to French parents) as singer and bassist, keyboardist Dave Greenfield and 72-year-old drummer Jet Black, with Baz Warne, singer and guitarist with the band since 2000. They are in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 19. Their former frontman, Hugh Cornwell, is also on tour soon playing Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on April 15.



The Stranglers

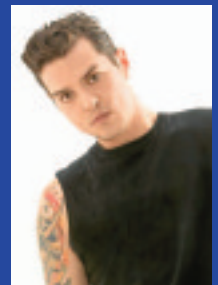


TV listings start – page 20

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up – page 19



Matt busts into dance – page 24

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5 Days

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Super value 5 day tour includes all coach transport, accommodation, breakfast, evening meal, excursion programme & entertainment. With its unique position on the sweeping Sandown Bay, this delightful town is probably the jewel of the Island. The Carlton Hotel with nothing but golden sands to disturb the view, offers the perfect holiday destination for all ages. Renowned for creating a relaxed and homely atmosphere along with a high quality of service, this hotel needs little promotion. All bedrooms are fully equipped with private facilities, colour television plus tea/coffee making facilities. There is a passenger lift for easy access to the bedrooms, plus a super seafront position



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- Kistor Hotel, Torquay 11th-15th April 5 days £175
- Manchester hotel, Bournemouth 18th-22nd April 5 days £175
- Chatsworth hotel, Llandudno 18th-22nd April 5 days £189
- Royal Albion, Brighton 25th-29th April 5 days £179
- Carlton Hotel, Isle of Wight 25th-29th April 5 days £189
- Grosvenor Hotel, Torquay 25th-29th April 5 days £149
- Kistor hotel, Torquay 9th-13th May 5 days £189
- Grand hotel, Scarborough 23rd-27th May 5 days £189
- Glastonbury hotel, Eastbourne 2nd-6th May 5 days £179
- Richmoor hotel, Weymouth 2nd-6th May 5 days £205
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- Manchester City Break 30th May-3rd June 5 days £179
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Matt busts into dance musical leading role

MATT Willis, singer from pop group Busted and I'm A Celebrity winner, will headline his first national theatre tour in Footloose The Dance Musical playing the role of Chuck when the show can be seen at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, March 14-19.

Directed and choreographed by Olivier award-winner Karen Bruce, Footloose promises the slickest, sexiest dance routines. It tells the story of city boy Ren who has to move to a rural backwater in America where he discovers that dancing is banned. Anyone who misses the show at the Hippodrome can catch up with it when it returns to the West Midlands for a run at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre in late June.

Ronald Dahl has never been more popular, especially after the success of Tim Minchin's musical Matilda at Stratford. Another one of his curious tales for children, George's Marvellous Medicine, is back in Birmingham by popular demand, staged by the city's own professional Birmingham Stage Company at the New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, March 15-19. The story tells of how George attempts to cure his grandmother's terrible temper with a potion, with unexpected results.

The Alex also hosts some star name one-

nighters. These include The Solid Silver 60s tonight (Thurs) which is to feature The Merseybeats, Wayne Fontana, Chris Farlowe and The Crying Game hit-maker Dave Berry. Cornish comedian Jethro brings adults-only humour to the venue on Sunday. Showbiz star Joe Longthorne will be singing at the Alex on Monday. Next weekend the theatre hosts former Supreme Mary Wilson with very special guests The Chi-Lites on Sunday, March 20.

Welsh National Opera complete their run at Birmingham Hippodrome with Verdi's passionate tragedy Il Trovatore tonight and on Saturday. In contrast, they present the comic opera Die Fledermaus, by Johann Strauss II, tomorrow (Fri).

Alistair MacGowan will be the Pirate King when Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance gets a concert airing at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham on Sunday night.

Catch a rising star when Birmingham Conservatoire present Janacek's opera The Cunning Little Vixen at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from tonight to Saturday. Meanwhile, The Crescent's own company stage the comedy Women On The Verge of HRT in the Sheepcote Street theatre's Ron Barber Studio to Saturday.

Cunning

Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company present one of the first amateur productions of Disney's High School Musical at the Wolverhampton Grand from Tuesday to Saturday (March 15 to 19). Cranford continues until Saturday.

Icarus Theatre's fast and frenetic version of Shakespeare's Hamlet is at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight. Maggie Fox and Sue Fyding spoof the Brontës in Lip Service's Withering Looks at the Arena tomorrow (Fri). Bertolt Brecht's classic drama about civil war and sacrifice, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, is staged by Blackeyed Theatre at the Arena on Monday.

Then on Tuesday London Classic Theatre visit the Wulfruna Street venue with the brutal love story After Miss Julie, relocated in Patrick Marber's version to an English country house on the night of Labour's landslide victory in 1945. Another classic, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, is presented by Mind The Gap at the Arena on Wednesday and Thursday, March 16 and 17.

Talawa Theatre Company look at what it means to be young, British and black in Krunch tomorrow and Saturday at The Drum in Aston. Further afield, Shaun The Sheep stars in his own music and dance extravaganza at Stoke's Regent Theatre to Sunday. Then the Russian State Ballet of Siberia will be in residence in Hanley from March 17-19. They then move on to Wolverhampton's Grand from March 20-22 with a programme including The Nutcracker, Romeo And Juliet and Swan Lake.

Comedy highlights include Terry Alderton at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tonight; Ed Byrne at Dudley Concert Hall tomorrow (Fri); Simon Munnery in The Slade Rooms on Saturday; Canadian Tom Stace at the Wulfrun Hall on Tuesday; and Ed Byrne is back for a gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday.



A scene from the show (Tye is on the right)

High note as young group to net a first

THE youthful team at Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (Muscom) are one of the first amateur companies to stage Disney's High School Musical.

The story about sweethearts Troy and Gabriella, whose love threatens to disrupt the American high school status quo between basketball 'jocks', science-loving 'brilliacs' and budding stars of the drama club, has yielded two hit Disney movies and albums.

Holly Stringfellow from Perton will play Gabriella Montez and Tye Harris, of Dudley, will be Troy Bolton. Tye, aged 19, is currently studying for a Drama and Performance degree at Wolverhampton University. This is the first time he has performed with MUSCOM.

The show is to be staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday, March 15 to Saturday, March 19.

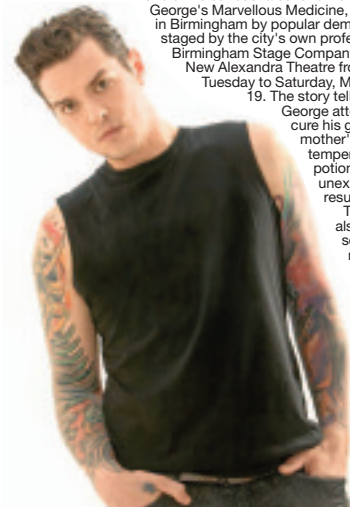
Rivals

Their rivals in the musical, Sharpey Evans and her brother Ryan, will be played by Kimberley Robinson, of Codsall, and Pip Harper from Wednesfield.

The show features hit songs Start Of Something New, When There Was Me And You, Bop To The Top, Getcha Head In The Game, Breaking Free and We're All In This Together.

It will be interesting to see how Muscom's production stands up against the professional version which was a sell-out success at the Grand three years ago.

Tickets are priced from £5 to £17 (concessions available). Contact the box office on (01902) 429212 or online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk



Matt Willis is to headline his first national theatre tour in Footloose The Dance Musical

Business Opportunities abound in Worcestershire



By Judi Brazkiewicz,
Chairman for FSB
Worcestershire

There is so much going on across the county I thought I should devote this month's column to the FSB events which any business owner can come along to. They are also free of charge and great opportunities for both business start ups and well established companies.

• **Thursday 17th March** - Strictly Networking, Rabjohns Accountants, College Green, Worcester

• **Wednesday 23rd March** - FSB Annual Business Lecture at the University of Worcester, where our guest speaker is the Falkland's Veteran, Simon Weston

• **Tuesday 12th April** - Strictly Networking, Mount Pleasant Hotel, Malvern

• **Thursday 14th April** - Strictly Networking, United Business Centre, Bromsgrove

All of the above events are organised by the FSB with support from the venues at which they are being held. They are free to attend and open to anyone. Booking for the University of Worcester FSB Annual Business Lecture, again a free event, can be made by emailing v.lancey@worc.ac.uk. We don't ask you to book for the Strictly Networking events, each of which starts at 5.30 pm and closes at 7 pm.

The FSB is keen that you get what you need out of your membership and we try to offer a wide range of local events to meet your needs. For further information about any of the above call the local office on 01386 750032 or email angela.smith@fsb.org.uk

Finally - a date for your diary - June 17th-19th

The FSB is sponsoring, for the third year, the Rural Business Support Pavilion at the Three Counties Show. This year we are offering all of our members the chance to display their business card as a digital image on our slide show which makes up part of the FSB stand within the Pavilion.

This is a brilliant way to get your name noticed at the biggest agricultural show in the West Midlands. This offer is exclusive to FSB Members, free of charge and very easy to do. Simply email a JPEG or Powerpoint slide of your business card to the FSB at richardas@coachlogistics.com - Richard is the FSB Chairman for Herefordshire and has volunteered to create the slide show which will run continually over the three day event. He, like you, runs his own business, so time is in short supply, which makes it impossible for him to convert files or work from hard copy, so a Powerpoint slide or JPEG attachment is what he needs!

For further information about events, both FSB and from other organisations, visit the local web pages at www.fsb.org.uk/092 - you'll be amazed at what is on offer right on your doorstep and for information about FSB membership and its benefits visit www.fsb.org.uk/info

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the pulse

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TAKE ME OUT

ITV1, 9.05pm

Modern-day cupid Focky McGuinness has absolutely got with his mean-it, over-the-top, barely dating game show. It's a pre-pub guilty pleasure of a Saturday evening, as he attempts to matchmake among some of the nation's hottest singletons. For the uninitiated, a Focky drink in front of a gaggle of 30 (mostly) gorgeous, shrieking ladies and close everything he can to stop them extinguishing their lights and looking out of the running in the race to win his heart. After much probable endorsement, the leading lady is chosen, and the newly formed couple head off to the island of Fernando, hoping there'll be more than just mosquitoes in the air.

9.00 Breakfast **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live **9.00** Raymond Starob-Rosen, **9.00** BBC News, **9.00** Regional News, **9.00** Weather, **9.00** Football Focus, **9.00** British Olympic Dream, **9.00** World Olympic Dream: From Thence to Tigris (F) **9.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, **9.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union

9.25 BBC News: Regional

9.30 Let's Dance for Comic Relief The prizefighting competition in front of judges Rufus Hound, Miranda Hart and Louise Spence, hoping to impress viewers who decide the winner. Last in the series.

9.30 The Hidden Lottery: Secret Fortune A brother and sister take part in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles in which contestants have the opportunity to win £100,000.

9.30 Comedy An interview for an ED job is involved in a traffic accident, Jay learns he has cancer and Ruth escapes from the psychiatric ward.

9.30 BBC News: Weekend **9.30 Live at the Apollo** With Alibair McGowan, Kevin Bridges and Reginald D Hunter (F)

9.30 Regional Programme **9.30 The Football League Show** Including highlights of Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace; Weatherview.

9.40 SignZone: Hidden Treasures of Australia (F) **9.40 Horizon: Are We Still Evolving?** (F) **9.40** 100 Years of the London Palladium (F) **9.40** BBC News

9.00 CBeebies **9.00** CBBC **9.00** The Sky at Night (F) **9.00** Escape to the Country (F) **9.00** First The Outlaw (1949) Western, starring the late Jane Fonda, **9.00** Into the West (F) **9.00** Final Score, **9.00** Churchill: How to Read Them (F) **9.00** Plog It (F)

9.25 Dr. Fox's Army Jonico is given some block-market pigeons - but soon discovers they were taken from Trafalgar Square (F)

9.30 Cybil - I Told You I Was A celebration of the life of comedian Spike Milligan through music, sketches and readings in tribute filmed in 2002, with performers including Eddie Izzard and Michael Palin (F)

9.30 King James Bible: The Book That Changed the World Melvyn Bragg marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible by investigating the book's influence on the English language, literature and Western democracy.

9.30 PLEK: The Edge of Love (2009) Premiere. Fast-paced period drama about the friendship between the wife and lover of poet Dylan Thomas, starring Keira Knightley, Gemma Miller, Gillian Murphy and Matthew Phyfe.

9.30 The Triforce Henry leads the invasion of France.

9.30 Horse Justice Coop inspects the hospital's biggest donor.

9.30 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights **9.30** Flint Force of Evil (1948) Thriller, starring John Garfield, **9.30** BBC News

9.00 CITV: Mini CITV **9.00** CITV **9.00** Coronation Street **9.00** The Morning: Saturday **9.00** Monk **9.00** ITV News; Weather **9.00** You've Been Framed (F) **9.00** Flint Small Soldiers (1998) Children's adventure, with Kieran Dunc. **9.00** Regional Programme **9.00** ITV News; Weather **9.00** Live FA Cup Football, Manchester United v Arsenal (kick-off 5.15pm).

9.25 Henry 8th's TV Story The comedian looks at the week's small-screen highlights, including the latest cop, reality, show and documentary to his unique brand of comedy.

9.30 Andy's Problem Last week's winning family returns to take on a new set of challenges, with the two teams hoping to hold onto as much of their allocated £100,000 as possible.

9.30 The Life Club A former, a magician, a career adviser and a finance manager try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their date. Focky McGuinness presents.

9.30 ITV News: Weekend **9.30 PLEK: Neil Trickett** (1988) An out-of-work merchant sailor investigates a radio hunter who stalks human prey in New Orleans. John Wood action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

9.30 The Zone ITV News Headlines **9.30** Swingtown (F) **9.30** ITV Nightscreen **9.30** ITV Morning News

9.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines **9.30** Swingtown (F) **9.30** ITV Nightscreen **9.30** ITV Morning News

9.00 The Treacle People (F) **9.00** The Hoobs (F) **9.00** The Hoobs (F) **9.00** The Hoobs and Field Show (F) **9.00** The Grid **9.00** The Morning Line **9.00** T4: Friends (F) **9.00** T4: Katy Perry: Real Stories (F) **9.00** T4: Glee **9.00** T4: Great British Hairdresser **9.00** T4: The Big Bang Theory (F) **9.00** T4: The Big Bang Theory (F) **9.00** Channel 4 Racing **9.00** The Secret Supper Club **9.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions (F) **9.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions (F) **9.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions (F)

9.25 The Pecked Chick Fluid Cynrith Merys Evans. All discussed.

9.30 Channel 4 News

Scientific teaching about mental illness.

9.30 River Cottage Library Day: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall turns his attention to vegetables (F)

9.30 Series: Age of Britain The period from 1000 BC to 45 AD (F)

9.30 Celebrity Island **Ashley** (F) Kelly Brook presents a countdown of stars who have had all infirmities, and explores the effects of nudity on the careers of performers including Sharon Stone and Demi Moore.

9.30 Stand Up for the World New series. Satirical comedy show, hosted by Kevin Bridges.

9.30 Flint Election (1998) **9.30** Without a Trace (F) **9.30** Finalaged (F) **9.30** Resper (F) **9.30** Woman's Perfect Recall (F) **9.30** Countdown (F)

9.00 Milkshake! **9.00** The Gadget Show Shorts (F) **9.00** UEFA Europa League Highlights **9.00** The Gadget Show (F) **9.00** Flint Superman III (1983) Comic-book adventure caper, starring Christopher Reeve, **9.00** Flint Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses (2007) Mystery, starring Dick Van Dyke, **9.00** Flint MySoul (1991) Drama, starring Anna Chikvadze and Micaela Cullin.

9.25 News Weekend

9.30 ICC A supposedly dead Marine comes back to life on the autopsy table (F)

9.30 ICC Two agents are murdered (F)

9.30 CSE: A Woman's Secret The violent death of a teenager on a flight to Las Vegas leaves the forensic experts puzzled over eyewitness testimony that conflicts with the physical evidence (F)

9.30 CSE: A Woman's Secret The young daughter of a wealthy family finds her name dead, setting in motion an investigation that checks an unflattering light on the lives of the rich and famous (F)

9.30 CSE: A Woman's Secret A department store manager is found murdered.

9.30 CSE: A Woman's Secret A body is found in a bin. Starring William Petercare (F)

9.30 SuperCado. Live interactive gaming. **9.00** Your Sport. The work of community sportswomen (F) **9.00** Music in Moments (F) **9.00** Harv's Hoopline (F) **9.00** The Mitchell Show (F) **9.00** Thomas & Friends (F) **9.00** Plooy: the Racing Car (F)

ITV2

9.00 How 'We've Been Framed! **9.00** American Idol **9.00** Flint Jurassic Park (1993) Action adventure, starring Sam Neill, **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005)

ITV4

9.05 Flint The Limy Daylight (1987) **9.05** Flint Spontaneous (2004) Historical drama, starring Gerard Butler, **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005)

ITV5

9.00 Great Movie Moments 2: The Sequel. Comedian Robert Webb presents a bloated edition of the show featuring gaffes from some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. **9.05** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005) The top 50 dance hits. **9.00** Family Guy

BBC FOUR

9.00 Nature's Great Events. The annual migration of whitebait and salmon. **9.00** Agency & Ecology: A Year with English National Ballet. A behind-the-scenes look at the company. **9.00** The 1000: How TV Killed Your Life. Charlie Brooker picks apart actual TV programmes and documentaries. Last in the series. **9.00** Island at the BBC. Archive performance by Cat Stevens, Rocky and Bob Dylan.

BBC

9.05 Hollywood: 9.00 Make It or Break It **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005) **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005) **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005) **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005) **9.00** Flint: The Last Samurai (2005)

FILM

9.00 Camy on Reganice (1984) Stupidly comedy starring Shri Janya. **9.55** The Woodlark (1977) **9.55** Nine Months (1995) **9.55** Suburban Special **9.00** Double Jeopardy (1997) Thriller, starring Ashley Judd. **9.05** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (2006) Horror remake, starring Jessica Biel and Lee Eriq.

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Friday

BBC1 9.00 Breakfast 9.35 Help Hurting
10.00 Homes Under the Hammer
BBC News/Weather 11.00 Britain
Empire Home 11.30 Catch in the Act; BBC News/Weather 12.15 12.00 BBC
News/Weather 13. Royal Flush/Weather 13.30
Doctors 2.15 Escape to the Country 3.00 BBC
News/Weather Regional News 3.05 CBBC 4.00
BBC News/Weather 4.30 Regional News
5.00 CBBC 5.30 The Big Bang Theory
6.30 BBC News 6.55 Family Footage
11.00 Comic Relief 2011 1.00 Comic Relief 2011
/Weather/News 2.25 BBC News

BBC2 9.00 Cbeebies 9.30 CBBC 9.35
Cbeebies 11.25 Mysteria Manor 1P
12.00 Daily Politics 12.30 GMT with George
Alton 1.00 Chronicle Magazine 1P 1.35 To Buy or
Not to Buy 1.55 The Big Bang Theory
Flourish Perform the Beat 3.35 Help Hurting Heroes 4P

[illegible]

5:00 The Adin Tinnach Show **5:30** Region
Weather **6:00** Midweek Madness **6:30** The
 Space **7:00** Regional News **Weather** **7:30**
 News **8:00** The Zone **8:30** Emmet Lee **9:00** Corridor
 Street **9:30** Flint Die Another Day **10:00** James
 Bond spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan
10:30 MTV News at Ten **Weather** **10:30** Region
News **Weather** **10:35** Flint Die Another Day
11:00 The Zone **11:30** Regional News **12:00**
 The Zone **1:00** MTV News Headlines **2:00** in Pitt
 Sight **3:00** MTV Nightcross **5:30** MTV Morning
 News.

Channel 4 **6:00** The Trade People
6:30 **6:30** The Hooky **7:00**
6:35 The Hooky **7:00** Freddy Squeezed **7:30**
 Everybody Loves Raymond **8:30** Z55 Supered

[illegible][illegible]

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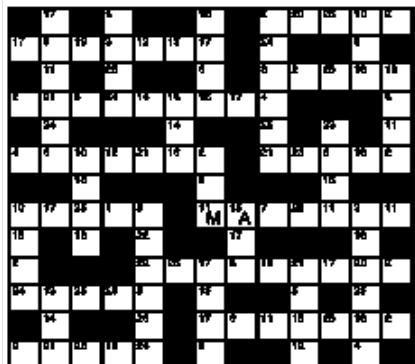
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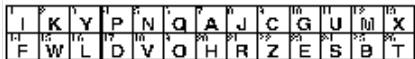
No. 107

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Beat a doctor in the final (7)
7. Kind of spirit found in petrol lighters (6)
9. Consumed almost too (8)
10. Ring finger about paying another visit (8)
12. Host by air (6,6)
13. Quicker at making decisions than wide the rest (4, 7)
17. Sunny reflections (8)
19. Pull two out of shape (8)
21. Unpleasant feature of the River Sever (6)
22. Wide allow (6,6)

Quick Clues:

Across

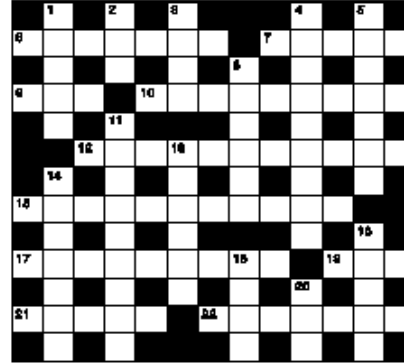
6. Havant (7)
7. Hic raising (6)
9. Attempt (8)
10. Meet (8)
12. Unordered (11)
13. Moved by Dickens (6,6)
17. Spruce (8)
19. Anger (8)
21. Dan (8,2)
22. Modesty (7)

Down

- 1 & 5 Da. It will give you full power (6,7)
2. When departure? (8)
3. Lies about a piece of land (4)
4. Countries may share them between them (8)
5. See 1 Down
8. A bit of a blow for those wanting refreshments (6)
11. Kindly support (8)
13. Hunts away from Montague Smith (6)
14. It is on the body (7)
16. Not the best man (6)
18. Teachers don't for money (4)
20. Number in the phone book (3)

Down

1. Lame (6)
2. Cunning (8)
3. Spell (4)
4. Candour (8)
5. Locally (7)
6. Great (6)
11. A lot (6,3)
13. Downright (6)
14. Upstart (7)
16. Pure (6)
18. Apparent (4)
20. Bear (3)

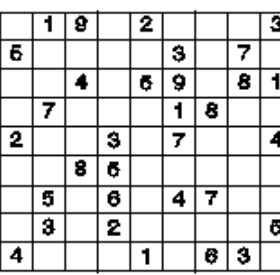


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC: Across: 7. Swine (6,6), 8. Trough, 10. Stupid, 12. Throat, 14. Litter, 15. Opium, 16. Flap, 17. Trench, 18. Allow, 19. Boat, 20. Throat, 21. Throat, 22. Throat, 23. Throat, 24. Throat, 25. Throat, 26. Throat. Down: 1. Throat, 2. Throat, 3. Throat, 4. Throat, 5. Throat, 6. Throat, 7. Throat, 8. Throat, 9. Throat, 10. Throat, 11. Throat, 12. Throat, 13. Throat, 14. Throat, 15. Throat, 16. Throat, 17. Throat, 18. Throat, 19. Throat, 20. Throat, 21. Throat, 22. Throat, 23. Throat, 24. Throat, 25. Throat, 26. Throat.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, every column, every 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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JOHN PRITCHARD
talks to Emma Scott
about her mission to
find new talent.



Scott on spot to find local bands

is where she got her taste for the Midlands music scene. Her first Emma Scott Presents gig was at the Little Civic in Wolverhampton in 2007. The gig series was originally going to be once a month, but has now grown to around six times a month, which means a lot of travelling for Emma.

She said: "I spend a lot of time on the M5, travelling to and from all my gigs, but it's all worth it."

Her first seminar, called Break Your Band, was held at The Slade Rooms last month, and around 80 people heard the speech she gave about the music industry from the promoter and DJ's view.

Feedback

A Devon-based DJ has made a Wolverhampton venue her second home as she bids to find the best new talent coming out of the Midlands.

Emma Scott is on the hunt for the next Robert Plant or Slade and has appropriately made The Slade Rooms the home for her Emma Scott Presents series of gigs.

The gigs, which are also staged in Birmingham, aim to give local bands more exposure and the chance to gain new fans.

She has now released a book and given a seminar on how to 'break your band' in the music industry.

She said: "I receive hundreds of band's demos every month, and there are some really good ones out there. This is a way of making sure they do the best they can."

Emma Scott moved down to Devon in 2009 to continue her radio career after leaving Birmingham-based Kerrang! Radio after five years, which

release on DVD and Blu Ray. Tickets are £27.50.

ONE quarter of the biggest band ever – former Beatle Ringo Starr – brings his own all-star group for a rare concert appearance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on June 20. Tickets are priced £55 and £60.

CO-CREATOR of The Office and Ricky Gervais's partner in comedy Stephen Merchant brings his Hello Ladies tour to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 5 for a special show which is being recorded for

THE TREND for bands performing their 'classic' albums continues with Birmingham's Ocean Colour Scene performing Moseley Shoals from start to finish at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 9 (tickets £24.50) and a week later The Wonder Stuff performing Never Loved Elvis in its entirety at Birmingham's O2 Academy on December 15 (£20).

FREEFALL Dance Company present Seaside Rendezvous: A Tribute To Freddie Mercury at the Patrick Centre in Birmingham Hippodrome on Thursday, March 15. It is the talented company's first work choreographed to rock music and takes inspiration from both the music of Queen and the saucy humour of old fashioned seaside postcards. Call 0844 338 5000.

that must feel." The book contains quotes from Kurt Cobain, Hunter S Thompson, Paul McCartney, Jon Bon Jovi, Van Morrison, Elvis Costello and Lou Reed, which help show what the music industry is really like.

Emma said: "I guarantee any band who read the book and who follow my guidelines will get radio airplay – as long as their music is good, that is!"

The 39-year-old has been working in radio for 23 years and has received thousands of demos in her time at various radio stations, including Heart FM and Galaxy.

Last November, her most successful gig to date came when Voodoo Johnson headlined at The Slade Rooms.

The five-piece from Birmingham have gone on from strength to strength, from supporting 80s-rock band Europe, of Final Countdown fame, to headlining their own UK Tour, which visits Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on April 24.

Another success story is The Whiskey Syndicate, a rock foursome from Wolverhampton who headlined an Emma Scott Presents gig at The Slade Rooms at the beginning of February, and released their EP, Stick or Twisted? earlier this year.

Speaking of The Whiskey Syndicate, Emma said: "These guys are someone to look forward to. I've worked with them a few times and they're great."

The Emma Scott Presents gigs stopped for a brief period as she relocated to just outside Exeter, but were relaunched again in April last year as another success story, The Lines, brought the series back in style.

Since the relaunch, The Lines have gone on to headline the Wulfrun Hall, release their debut album and support local favourites Ocean Colour Scene.

Emma is looking forward to a busy future, with the hope that many of the bands she has nurtured will go on to become staples of the music industry, and, no doubt, there are likely to be more books in the pipeline.

Toploader, who had a massive hit in 2000 with their cover of Dancing In The Moonlight, are back together and touring again. The Eastbourne band, who split after the demise of their record label in 2003 despite selling a million copies of their debut album Onka's Big Moka, will release their third album, Only Human, in May. Their tour includes a date at the HMV Institute in Birmingham on Saturday, March 19.

REVIEWS

PLAN B WOLVERHAMPTON, CIVIC HALL

The Defamation of Strickland Banks became a reality last week as singer Plan B brought his story of wrongdoing to the Civic Hall. Opening with Writing's On The Wall, the sixth single off his album, the London crooner confirmed his transition from bad-boy rapper to soul superstar.

The singer, real name Ben Drew, played a set full of songs off his second album, which tells the story of the fictional singer Strickland Banks, who is jailed for a crime he didn't commit. Songs such as Welcome to Hell, The Recluse and Traded In My Cigarettes document Banks's struggles with coping in jail, while covering up the sadness with shimmering Motown grooves and crooning soul vocals.

The risky move from underground rap to Northern Soul-fuelled pop proved to be a clever one for the singer, as the crowd sung every word of singles She Said and Love Goes Down. His encore picked up the tempo as he did a medley of soul songs, which he said were for the "older crowd".

Jon Pritchard

NE-YO AND TREY SONGZ, BIRMINGHAM NIA

Trey Songz opened with a performance that appealed to the ladies. Having released four albums, he might not yet be a household name, but he certainly had the crowds on his side. Performing covers and his own songs, including the lead single Bottoms Up from – a collaboration with Nicki Minaj from his latest album Passion, Pain and Pleasure he proved to be an excellent show man.

Ne-Yo followed with a flawless performance of upbeat numbers and emotional love songs.

Talented female dancers kept the main man company on stage, performing both provocative moves and skilled ballet steps.

Ne-Yo said: "I've heard that Birmingham's where the party's at."

This proved to be true as most of the fans spent the whole performance on their feet dancing to hits like So Sick and Beautiful Monster.

With the crowds screaming for more, he ended with an encore of Closer. Trey songz will be back in the UK at O2 Academy Birmingham on April 25.

Alex Wainwright

CRANFORD THE GRAND, WOLVERHAMPTON

This costumed comedy set in the insular world of Cranford is inhabited by a group of repressed, gossip, snobbish and class-ridden women whose biggest dilemma to date is working out how to address a countess.

The cast, lead perfectly by Kathryn Dimery as Miss Matilda Jenkins, go through the motions of Victorian living seeking to keep the status quo of Cranford until circumstances overtake them and make them re-evaluate their social priorities.

The wonderfully dressed women live in the fearful shadow of offending the sensibilities of domineering matriarch The Honourable Mrs Jamieson played with suitable starch by Hildegard Neil. Throw into the melting pot a maid with ambitions, a widowed countess who causes a stir and you have a jolly almost farcical show which produces one liners such as "You can't beat a bit of bondage to keep you warm".

Cranford runs until March 12

Danny Farragher

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE, BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

This old favourite from the Birmingham Royal Ballet repertoire delighted audiences with its fun and frolics. Despite its French origins, this was a tale of merry old England with maypole dancing, harvest festivities, a rustic clown, a clog dancing dame and even giant chickens.

Frederick Ashton's 50-year-old version is an escapist rural fantasy, certainly a tad twee but warmly received by audiences that appreciated its humorous good nature and vibrant energy. Jamie Bond danced powerfully as the young farmer, Elisha Willis was vivacious as his sweetheart and American dancer Mathias Dingman a superb clown as her clumsy suitor. But all were upstaged by the cast's one non-dancer, a white Shetland pony.

Leon Burakowski

ELAINE PAIGE, B-HAM, SYMPHONY HALL

More than 30 years a showbiz diva, Elaine Paige proved that she's still the little lady with the biggest voice with her two-hour concert at Birmingham, which was completed by a standing ovation for the essential encore, Memory from Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Cats.

She had been in character to recall her greatest stage successes, including Evita and Norma Desmond from Sunset Boulevard. Other highlights included her version of Mike Batt's Closest Thing To Crazy, new song It's Only Life (written for her by Gary Barlow and Tim Rice and sung with impressive newcomer Hermione Hennessy) and a showstopping I'm Still Here from Stephen Sondheim's Follies.

Leon Burakowski

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PEUGEOT 307 1.4S 55 Reg. 5-dr. Black, Air Con, Alloys, 58K, FSH	£4295
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 SL OASIS 55 Reg. 3-dr. Silver, Glass Roof, Air Con, Alloys, 63K, History	£4295
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 CLUB 55 Reg. 5-dr. Black Sapphire, Air Con, Alloys, 48K, FSH	£4495
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRI 07 Reg. 5-dr. Black Sapphire, Air Con, VXR Alloy, 73K, FSH	SOLD
FORD MONDEO TDCI ZETEC 130 55 Reg. 5-dr. Machine Silver, Climate, Alloys, 62K, FSH	£4695
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VAUXHALL AGILA 1.0 EXPRESSION 09 Reg. Bright Red, CD Player, 14k, FSH	£5795
FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO 07 Reg. 5-dr. Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 31k, FSH	£6295
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VW PASSAT S TDI 105 06 Reg. Grey Metallic, air con, alloys, 27k, history	£6995
TOYOTA PRIUS T4 VTI AUTO. 07 Reg. Gold, Air Con, Alloys, 69k, FSH, 1 Owner	£7495
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 59 Reg. 5-dr. Black Sapphire, Air Con, Alloys, Half Leather, 9K, One Owner	£7495

CONVERTIBLES

SAAB 9-3 SE TURBO CONVERTIBLE 52 Reg. Silver, Blue Hood, Leather, Climate, Alloys, 87k, FSH£4295

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TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VTI 51 Reg. Silver, Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 91k, SH£2995

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CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 06 Reg. White, radio/CD, 32k, FSH one owner£4495

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2004 54 Reg MG ZR 1.4 105
3-dr. Manual Hatchback, FSH, ABS,
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£3,195

2008 08 Reg	SAAB 9.3 2.0T AERO Black, 11,329 miles	£14,995
2006 06 Reg	MERCEDES-BENZ SLK 200K CABRIOLET 2-dr. Manual, Petrol, 51,479 miles, Metallic Silver	£14,995
2006 06 Reg	SAAB 9-5 2.0T VECTOR SPORT Auto, Estate, Grey, 44,214 miles	£7,995
2008 08 Reg	FIAT BRAVO 1.4 DYNAMIC Grey 28,146 miles	£6,995
2002 02 Reg	AUDI TT 1.8+ QUATTRO Black, 128,231 miles	£5,995
2003 03 Reg	BMW 318i Se Blue, 91,032 miles	£4,495
2005 55 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16v CLUB Grey, 59,983 miles	£4,695
2004 54 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 16V. Black, 66,842, miles	£3,995
2006 06 Reg	CITROEN C1 1.0i VIBE. Red, 27,638 miles	£3,795
2001 51 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 SE TDI White, 94,298 miles	£3,395

1999 T Reg	JAGUAR V8 XJ SPORT 3.2 V8. Blue, 65,732 miles	£3,295
2002 51 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 Silver, special edition, leather, 64,173 miles	£3,295
2002 02 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC ESTATE. Blue, 78,936 miles	£3,295
2001 Y Reg	MERCEDES BENZ C220 CDI CLASSIC. Blue, 129,532	£3,295
2003 03 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 CLUB Green, 71,021 miles	£2,995
2003 03 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.4 16V DYNAMIQUE. Blue, 64,213 miles	£2,795
2003 52 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT AUTHENTIQUE Silver, 68,351 miles	£2,795
2003 03 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0i 12V ACTIVE. Red, 68,234 miles	£2,695
2002 52 Reg	HYUNDAI COUPE 2.0 SE Black, 91,586 miles	£2,695
2001 51 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.3 FLIGHT Slate Blue, 44,297 miles	£2,295
2001 Y Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 16v ide DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET Red, 89,143 miles	£2,295
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MAKE	MODEL	ENGINE	SPEED	OPTIONS	COLOR	Mileage	REG NO	RETAIL
Small Vans / Car Derived Vans								
Vauxhall	Corsa 1100	1.3 CDTi	Van	Side Door	White	55811	GY5LUPP	£4,795.00
Vauxhall	Astra Van 1.6i	1.6 CDTi	Van	Side Door	White	47133	SL21H9P	£5,995.00
Vauxhall	Combo 1.6i	1.6 CDTi	Van	Side Door	White	43211	YD58211	£5,425.00
Vauxhall	Combo 1.6i	1.7 CDTi	Van	Side Door	Black	43830	YB57P10	£5,495.00
Ford	Connect 2.0 LPS	1.8 1000 90ps	Van	Side Door	White	21801	YF56ADA	£5,995.00
Vauxhall	Combo 1100	1.7 CDTi	Van	Side Door	White	25746	SL20TF2	£5,995.00
Medium Vans								
Vauxhall	Vivaro SWB 2100	2.0 CDTi 110ps	Van	SWB Low Roof	White	60556	VW5Y605	£8,495.00
Ford	Transit SWB 2000	2.2 TDCI 86ps	Van	Low Roof	White	32337	AC280000	£8,795.00
Vauxhall	Vivaro SWB 2100	2.0 CDTi 110ps	Van	SWB Low Roof	White	54116	VJ05B27	£8,995.00
Vauxhall	Vivaro LWB 2800	2.0 CDTi 80ps	Van	LWB Low Roof	White	57850	AA56CJ1	£7,495.00
Vauxhall	Vivaro LWB 2800	2.0 CDTi 110ps	Van	LWB Low Roof	White	20500	AF56C21	£8,995.00
Ford	Transit SWB 2000	2.2 TDCI 86ps	Van	Medium Roof	Blue	21300	YH56C00	£8,995.00
Vauxhall	Vivaro SWB 2100	2.0 CDTi 110ps	Van	SWB Low Roof	Silver	22800	BR56Z11	£8,995.00
Ford	Transit SWB 2000	2.2 TDCI 140ps	Van	SWB Low Roof	Silver	30300	NY56P11	£10,195.00
Vauxhall	Vivaro LWB 2800 DCV	2.0 CDTi 110ps	DCV	LWB Sportive	White	17200	GY56H93	£13,495.00

Large Vans									
Ford	Transit 350 LWB High Roof	2.4 TDCI 100ps	Van	High Roof	White	80417	YT57EVS	£7,985.00	
6x4 Pickups									
Mitsubishi	L200 Warrior	2.5 TDCI	Pickup	Manual	Grey	20700	MW57LKA	£12,985.00	
Ford	Ranger Thunder	2.5 100	Pickup	Manual	Blue	21300	GF56L02	£15,485.00	
Tipper/Crocodile/Lutons									
Ford	Transit 350 MWB Tipper	2.4 TDCI 100ps	One Stop	10.8	White	62142	PC57467	£9,985.00	
Ford	Transit Del Cap Tipper	2.4 TDCI 100ps	Steel Tipper		White	48500	NH57DAD	£9,985.00	
Ford	Transit 350 Crocodile	2.4 TDCI 110ps	Crocodile	10.8 Alloy D. Side	White	42785	PD56D15	£11,485.00	

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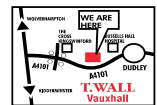
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CODSALL RD W'ton, One bed ground floor flat, CH, parking. £400pcm TSR 01902 421216

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HOUSE, Lanesfield, 2-bed, CH, DG, large garden, £485 pcm. Deposit. 07871 921934, after 6pm.

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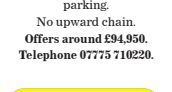
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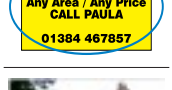
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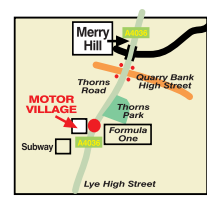
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sport

TON-UP McPHEE HITS EQUALISER

CHRIS McPHEE celebrated his 100th Harriers appearance with a second-half equaliser to earn a share of the spoils against Luton in the Blue Square Premier.

The Harriers midfielder ghosted in at the far post to meet Callum Gittings' deep free-kick and head the ball past Mark Tyler on 52 minutes to record his 15th goal of the season.

Harriers manager Steve Burr was quick to praise the club's longest serving player. "Before the game the lads gave him a shirt with the number 100 on the back," he said.

"Chris has done well and it was nice to see him pop up at the far stick and head one in to get us something out of the game."

Extended

Burr was slightly disappointed that his side didn't perform as well as they might.

"I thought we could have kept the ball a bit better today, but it was a game in which neither team wanted to give anything."

Harriers extended their unbeaten run to nine games, with only one defeat since the turn of the year as Burr reflected: "With the run we've been on we came here looking for three points."

"But when you can't get them, the next best thing is to ensure you at least take something from the game."

Luton showed greater invention in a one-sided opening 20 minutes,

LUTON TOWN 1 HARRIERS 1

Lloyd Owusu earning himself a yellow card after just 30 seconds for his theatrical dive in an attempt to win a penalty. Owusu and former Harriers front man Matty Barnes-Homer were a constant handful as Michael Briscoe and Mark Albrighton showed great resilience at the heart of the defence.

It came as no surprise when Luton struck the opening goal on 27 minutes, although Callum Gittings had just spurred a great opportunity for the visitors when heading straight at Mark Tyler.

Freddie Murray's crossfield ball found Barnes-Homer on the edge of the Harriers box. The ball ricocheted off Briscoe back into the path of Barnes-Homer and from an acute angle he struck a perfect half-volley that hit the roof of the net and bounced back into play.

Respond

Confusion reigned as the officials deliberated before rightly deciding the goal should stand.

Harriers responded with Sean Canham deflecting Albrighton's shot onto the Luton bar before the home side wasted two good chances.

Harriers' equaliser only intensified the home side's efforts, but despite enjoying the majority of possession Luton were unable to test Danny Lewis in the visitors' goal.

Red card for Burgess after opening goal

BEWDLEY 4 AFC WULFRUNIAN 0

BEWDLEY Town were on best form to end off top-of-the-table AFC Wulfrunians' 14 match winning streak with a convincing 4-0 victory. They should have been ahead within 30 seconds.

Olly Smith was put clear by Richard Burgess but a slight hesitation allowed Wulfs' defender Graham Ashton to apply enough pressure for him to fire wide.

Winger Chris Seekings shot just wide and then went closer after beating Wulfs' keeper to a long through ball but his goal-bound shot was intercepted. Bewdley had

to reshuffle the pack when central defender Richard Sotley pulled up with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Craig Webb. They took a 23rd minute lead when Burgess picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area before curling a shot into the bottom right hand corner.

But four minutes before the interval the striker Burgess was shown a straight red card for an off the ball incident.

Any thoughts that it would be back-to-the-wall defending for 10-man Bewdley were quickly dispelled as they added a further two goals soon after the break. In

the 50th minute, Sean Wright was brought down after a long free kick in to the area. Seekings scored from the spot.

Eight minutes later he forced Tipton to make another point blank save. The ball was quickly crossed back into the area where Hough forced another save but Smith fired home the rebound.

Bewdley keeper Darren Steadman was in inspired form, pulling off a string of fine saves and keeping his well organised defence on their toes. Not even 12 minutes of added time could help Wulfs and Hough Bewdley added a late fourth goal.



Chris Seekings

Loss leaves KC's bottom

BERKSWEIL & BALSALL 25 KC'S 14

A MATCH played in depressing conditions ended with a depressing result for KC's which saw them sink into the bottom two of Mids Two West S. They began much the brighter of the two sides. Centre Jake Evetts nearly breached B's defence but his offloading pass was knocked on with a try beckoning.

An overthrown defensive lineup put KC's in trouble but they responded with a swift counter attack led by Andy McLellan and young wing Will Varley. Midway through the half Berksweil's No 5 was shown a yellow card, the first of five dished out.

KC's continued to have the better of things until Berksweil set up a rolling maul which walked KC's back a full 25 metres before being stopped. KC's took a deserved lead on the stroke of half time when centre Craig Wilkinson capitalised on a B's mistake to scoop up a loose ball and run more than half the length. McLellan converted.

From the restart the hosts raised their game and within two minutes a driving lineup from the 22 metre line resulted in an unconverted try. A cross-kick was well taken by B's left wing who squeezed in at the corner to put them 10-7 in front. A chip over Kidder's defensive line earned the Warwickshire side a penalty that stretched their lead to 13-7. Their powerful forwards took control and a lineup drive while KC's prop Matt Rigby was in the sin bin gave the hosts their third try.

KC's No 8 Rob Delahay went over from a lineup and McLellan's conversion gave Kidder a glimmer of hope at 14-18. Berksweil were awarded a penalty under KC's posts and from the scrum their No 8 scored for a converted try to end the scoring.

Kidderminster under 15s beat Telford 88-0 with tries from Dan Cooper (4), Joe Carey Jenkins, Henry Cook, David Bisset, James Turner (2 each), Mitchell Dwyers and Liam Gwynn (1 each). Conversions: Bisset (7), Dwyers and Ed Zubrynski (1 each).

Pippa lead the way to victory

STOURPORT 1ST 3 OLTON & WEST WARWICK 2ND 2

STOURPORT ladies 1st extended their lead at the top of the Midlands Division 1, with 3-2 victory over Olton 2nds, to The Kingsway at the weekend. They took the lead through player of the match Pippa Lewis. Olton equalised then Stourport scored two through Jade Marshall-Walker and Sarah Cavendish before Olton managed to score a second.

BRIDGNORTH 2 STOURPORT 2ND 0

Stourport ladies 2nds came away from Bridgnorth, who are two places above them in the Feeder West League 2-0 losers. Players of the match: Fran Moss, Holly Lashford and Kayleigh Hateley.

STOURPORT 3RD 3 DROITWICH 1ST 1

Stourport ladies 3rd made the most of the visit of bottom placed Droitwich 1st to gain a victory in this Worcestershire 1st Division fixture. The home side took the lead through a Louise Bagnall. Kerry Walker added a second before Droitwich pulled a goal back. Stourport's Melissa Kennedy scored a third. Player of the match was Nancy Parsons.

HARBORNE 5TH 4 STOURPORT 4TH 1

With Stourport 4ths sixth in the league and their hosts Harborne 5th's seventh this Worcestershire 2nd Division match was always going to be hard fought. Unfortunately for Stourport it was Harborne who took the three points despite a great strike by Rosie Connolly to open the scoring. Player of the match was Lily Harrison-Perkins.

BOURNVILLE 3RD 3 STOURPORT 5TH 1

The 5ths fielded a severely depleted side against a Bournville 3rds and despite the score, they acquitted themselves well. Pauline Knott scored their goal. Player of the match was sweeper Sara Jennings.

It's a grand draw for David

DAVID Cobb, of Stourport, has won the grand draw for one year's free membership at Kidderminster Golf Club. He has been a member for 11 years.

The Kidderminster Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Enter the Dragon – plus students



Tae Kwon Do Schools of Excellence and the Zara Phythian seminar group at Bewdley Leisure Centre

SCREEN movie fighter Master Zara Phythian – also known as Lady Dragon – was the star of a martial arts seminar at Bewdley Leisure Centre.

The 13 times world champion gave a series of demonstrations and master classes at an event attended by more than 140 students from all over the country.

In between the action she signed autographs and posed for photographs with the students. She also presented a crystal award to Russell Perks, chief instructor and owner of Tae Kwon Do

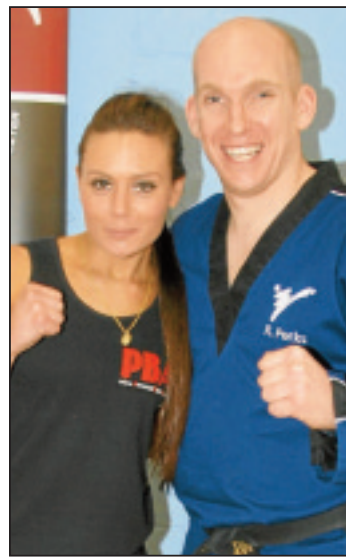
Schools of Excellence, for outstanding contribution to martial arts. In return Phythian was presented with a personal portrait in oils.

"Tae Kwon Do Schools of Excellence do amazing things for both its students and the community," she said. "They are very heavily involved within school and local group activities."

Anyone interested in joining the Tae Kwon Do/martial arts classes should call Russell Perks on 01562 636005 or check out the website www.tkdsoe.org.uk



Students get down to work under the tutelage of Zara Phythian



Zara Phythian and chief instructor Russell Perks

Medals flow as Samurai give debuts to players

SAMURAI Judo Club fielded a group of new players as well as a few slightly more experienced ones at their Mini-Me Open at Gilt Edge Social Club, Kidderminster, and were rewarded with four gold medals, four silvers and 12 bronzes.

In the lightest boys' group, Joshua Cooper made his competition debut and gaining a bronze, which was followed up with a bronze for William Taylor.

Samurai's first gold went to

Nathan Gallacher, who although still in his first year of judo already had two golds.

Newcomer James Wall bravely had a go after just a few weeks in the sport. He did well, losing in the semi-final but coming to win the bronze. Fellow newcomer Joe Edwards made it to the final where his opponent proved too experienced, but this was still silver.

Jordan Rosewarne showed some good skills and was unlucky to lose

in the semi-final but came back and win the bronze. There were bronze medals for Mitchell Whitmore and Thomas Harrison.

Luke Haynes was another making his debut. He reached the semi-final before losing to a much more experienced player but came back to take a well deserved bronze.

Andy Calloway and Rhys Williams were in the same weight and were both taking part in their first competition. Andy got bronze

and Rhys took gold. He also reached the final of the open weight group where he was defeated by a larger and more experienced player to leave him with silver.

The lightest girls weight category saw a spirited debut from Charlotte Spokes. She reached the semi-final before losing but came back well to win the bronze. Samurai then took bronzes through Paige Cooper, like her brother Joshua making her contest debut, Ellie Griffiths and

Emily Harrison. Fellow debutante Rebekah Hobby lost her final the first to a more experienced player.

Molly Thompson went one better winning gold in her second competition. In the last category, Samurai's Charlotte Read and Chelsea Oliver reached the best of three final. The more experienced Charlotte won the first, but competition debutante Chelsea took the second. The contest was decided by Charlotte's excellent throw in the third.

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